

Public Libraries

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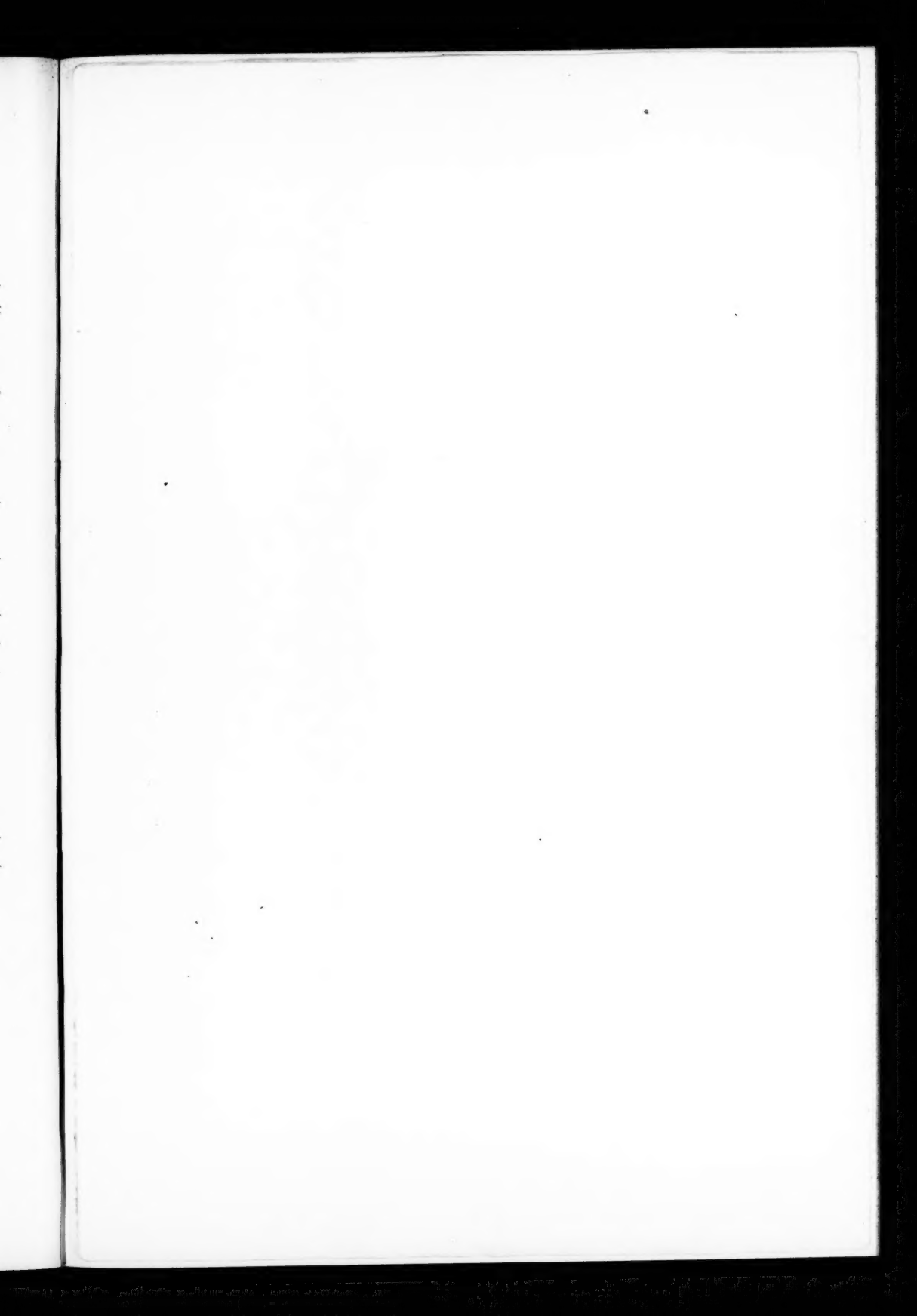
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The Library and the Social Memory *

Prof. George E. Vincent, University of Chicago

Frankly—for concealment is quite futile—I am by way of being a sociologist. Now a cynical friend, who has a disagreeable habit of saying clever things, insists that so far as he can find out sociology is "what everybody has always known expressed in language which nobody can understand." The irritating thing about this dictum is that there's no denying it a measure of truth. It's hardly a half, let us say a quarter, truth. But, after all, does this ridicule rightly rest upon the sociologist alone? Are we not all the makers and worshipers of phrases? Does not every group—even you librarians—have its argot which tends to become cant? I seem to recall something familiar about the functions and ethics of librarianship. Society is held together by these facile phrases which get themselves so glibly repeated. In business, politics, education, religion, stereotypes are so constantly employed that we almost forget the possibilities of new combinations of movable type. We are hopelessly victims—so to say—of plate matter and patent insides. Even our talk is in standardized, interchangeable units, and then when we break away from the conventional and strike out new phrases how easily we may deceive ourselves! Is egotism so different from selfishness? Does hypnotism wholly supersede mesmerism? Has physics

quite supplanted natural philosophy or psychology taken the place of mental science? Just contemplate the philological feats of modern medicine! The truth is that all progress in knowledge is largely a restatement of old problems in new terms. We agree to call certain mysteries by certain names. Gravitation and electricity are in a sense merely labels for our ignorance. So long as we do not use the terms as though they stood for final explanations all is well. So, too, heredity and environment are words to conjure with in these days, but the more we ponder them the less certain we feel about them. Happy they who never question the phrases which come trippingly from their tongues.

My task is to make some new phrases for your professional activities, to put what you have always known into unwonted language which I hope, however, may not be wholly unintelligible. I suppose that there is some profit in having an outsider unhampered by too much special knowledge of your chosen field. His ill-concealed ignorance is, to be sure, diverting, but he serves a more important purpose in trying at least to relate your work in a large way to the great life tasks of society. This is worth while for two reasons. If you are puffed up with pride or feel the whole burden of human progress resting on your shoulders it is well to remind you that there are other agencies which have a hand in promoting the welfare of mankind; there are, so to

* An address delivered before the New York state library association at Lake Placid, N. Y., Sept. 27, 1904.

say, other books in circulation—I just checked myself from saying (such is the force of habitual speech) “on the shelf.”

Again, if you ever lapse into routine and lose for a time the wider vision it may hearten you to get a glimpse of the great sweep of our common life and to feel more vividly your share in the collective task of winning a higher plane for your fellows.

Biological analogies have of late fallen somewhat into the background. These are psychological days. There is a psychology of childhood, a psychology of adolescence, a psychology of advertising, a psychology of salesmanship—and there is Henry James. Then, too, there is a social psychology which has conceived a common mental life for the social group and traces a parallel between the individual and society on the mental side. Habit in the individual finds an analogue in the customs and conventions of collective life. As individual conduct is largely unreflective so, too, the activities of society are for the most part unconscious, i. e., without concerted purpose or plan. On occasions, however, the person becomes aware of himself as confronted by a problem to be solved, and then with conscious adjustment of means to ends he devises a way out of his dilemma. In similar fashion a social group, a labor union, or a nation, may in time of conflict or danger develop a social consciousness, and with concerted purpose and a common policy seek to solve the problem which confronts it. Moreover, the individual in all his acts is dependent upon memory, whether it be conscious recollection or unreflective, habitual tendency to react in a certain way to a given stimulus. In like manner a group, be it a family or a state, depends for its solidarity and its activity upon a social memory, a tradition of knowledge, skill, taste, and ideals.

To the individual the present has no meaning, save as past experience enables him to interpret it. In a true sense personality is memory. Equally true is it that a social group maintains

its integrity only under the unifying influence of a common tradition communicated from generation to generation. The family is unified not by economic interdependence but by living a common life with common memories and a group loyalty. The fraternity perpetuates itself by initiation, ritual, and instruction in tradition. The church preserves its continuity in so far as its history, its saints, its authority and ideals are vividly impressed upon each member. The nation fosters patriotism by exalting heroes, execrating traitors, celebrating victories, depreciating enemies, extolling national virtues. It builds monuments, founds universities, museums and libraries, appoints holidays and festivals, holds ceremonies, administers law, enforces customs, i. e., employs endless devices for impressing the past upon the present. The social memory gives meaning and purpose to national life. In Comte's phrase, “the living are ruled by the dead.” Groups differ as to the scope given to innovation, and to the consequent modification of tradition. The Chinese are the slaves of their social memory. We Americans boast of our lack of reverence for the past, even when the spellbinder is sweeping all before him with claptrap appeals to our national history, and the shades of Washington and Jefferson are taking an active part in a presidential campaign. Every enduring society must in the nature of things conserve its fundamental ideals or at least modify them by a gradual, almost imperceptible process. Our constitution endures and gives continuity to our national life, but its admirers extol not only its permanence but its flexibility.

Civilization in general is a rather elusive notion, but our own national life seems a fairly real and precise thing. What is our national memory or tradition and where is it to be found? It is made up of a vast mass of knowledge about nature and man in many aspects, of technical skill, of taste, of ideals as to conduct, of countless ways of behaving, customs and conventions.

And all these are actually vital in the brains and bodies of individuals. A vague and minimal amount is common to practically all adults, but the vast bulk is divided up among specialized individuals and groups. A large part of the tradition is symbolic, i. e., incorporated in tangible forms, such as books, manuscripts, pictures, monuments, apparatus, tools, machines, buildings, costumes, flags, political organizations, law, ceremonies, forms of speech. It is administered by many institutions which consciously or unconsciously coöperate or conflict in the great task of transmitting the accumulated mass from generation to generation. The library is one of these institutions, which not only has its own work to do, but has vital relations with all the rest; with individual, family, school, church, museum, art gallery, historical monuments, professional groups, and numberless other associations. It is impossible to consider the library as an isolated social institution. In its very nature and function it is a coöperating and unifying agency. It is one of the means by which the social memory is put at the service of society. The analogy comes to this: Our national life will be vigorous and progressive in so far as this social memory or tradition is accessible, adaptable, organized, active and sifted. Let us now consider the library as a social institution and briefly examine its present tendencies.

The outstanding feature of the modern library movement is its democratic trend. Let us fancy several maps of the country successively spread before us. We shall imagine each library to be marked by a red spot, and its readers indicated by radiating lines ending in tiny dots. Let us look at a map for 1775. There's Franklin's Library Co. in Philadelphia, and a dozen other libraries, chiefly in New England. How limited and local the radiating lines! Here's a map for 1800. Note the medical, law, theological libraries in Boston, New Haven, New York, Princeton and Philadelphia, and the State library

at Trenton. That large dot stands for the beginning of the new Congressional library. Turn now to 1820. The number of libraries is increasing steadily, especially in New England towns. Salisbury, Conn., has a genuinely public collection of books. The others are supported by subscriptions or by college or private funds. These large spots in New York and Boston are mercantile libraries, with evening classes. The radiating lines are multiplying slowly from all these centers. Here is the map for 1840. What does this outbreak in New York mean? These are Dewitt Clinton's district school libraries. We turn to another map—this for 1860. Here appear large private foundations in New York, and the Municipal library of Boston. Towns and cities east and west are dotted, colleges are springing up, and the radiating red lines have multiplied perceptibly. The map for 1880 displays marked growth. Notice the thickening spots, especially in the middle west. In 1890 the same tendency is to be noted. How the radiating lines are increasing in number and complexity! In the cities the local libraries are connected by co-operating lines. See how these city libraries are pushing out branches into the different urban districts. From each of these subordinate centers, lines are radiating to many individuals and families. The last map shall depict the present. What is the meaning of these long lines stretching from such centers as Albany, Chicago and Madison, into towns and villages? These stand for traveling libraries and picture collections, sent from the large centers and locally circulated. Note the extension of lines in cities. There are many branches; even engine houses, police stations, hospitals and railway cabooses have been invaded. Again, see the lines stretching to the schoolhouses, the Sunday schools, the women's club rooms, to museums and art galleries. And—most interesting of all—can you trace these tiny red lines spreading from libraries in Boston, Cleveland and other cities? The children have fel

the touch of the library and are welcomed to their own reading-rooms. Nor must we overlook various commercial enterprises, circulating libraries in towns and cities, and that vast distributing system with its center at Philadelphia. Moreover, there has been during the past quarter century a marvelous increase in family libraries, which can not fail to foster an interest in the larger public collections of books. The encyclopedia is, in a sense, an abstract or extract of the public library. Every family encyclopedia, with its bibliographies, is ultimately a feeder for the library, even though it may seem at first thought a substitute. Suppose we were to add to our map a dot for each private book collection of at least a hundred volumes. How bewildering the result would be. The lines would cross and intertwine until the imagination quite broke down. Let us abandon our maps and seek their general significance. In one respect the library movement, notably of late years, has been an expansion. The libraries have pressed their way to the people, have sought to multiply relations with the public. They have become more and more democratic, either through direct support from state and municipality, or through the spirit in which trustees and librarians have administered privately founded institutions. They are pushing steadily toward that ideal of an intelligent democracy, the free and habitual resort of every man, woman and child to the easily accessible, well-organized, and wisely selected traditions of civilized mankind. The libraries are seeking to put the social memory at the service of the whole body politic.

Again, the library movement recognizes the fundamental importance of specialization according to the social division of labor, intellectual as well as physical. We need not dwell upon the obvious relation of special libraries in law, theology, medicine and technology to schools, colleges and universities. Of the local general library adaptations are demanded and most willingly provided.

The predominant industrial activities of a community should be reflected in the local library, as for example, anthracite coal mining in the Wilkesbarre, and copper production in the Calumet and Hecla reference rooms. Books in foreign languages are wisely added to the libraries of cities where immigrant families are numerous. Where the woman's club is covering the universe in a winter's program, the breathless librarian seeks to furnish the Argonauts with a reasonably adequate list of books and references. When the school principals and teachers make demands, the librarian is ready with special collections, some of them purchased for the very purpose. All ministers are not content with commentaries, books of illustrations, denominational weeklies and other humdrum homiletic materials. For them the volumes must be provided which ultimately will refresh and stimulate their congregations. Moreover, in the progressive modern library special rooms and literature for the children must be provided.

With the local historical society the library usually finds coöperation easy and congenial, while in the absence of such an organization, the library should practically take upon itself the task of preserving local records in many forms, and of cultivating in the community a corporate pride founded upon something other than industrial statistics, brick pavements, water-works, trolley cars, and a victorious ball nine. The time will come when many a library will include an art collection, a museum of natural history, and a social museum in which will be preserved, after the manner of the Federal museum of Zurich and the National museum of Nuremberg, furniture, house interiors, tools, utensils, costumes, which shall afford vivid pictures of the social history of the locality and region. To these will be added exhibits illustrating various industrial processes, local and national. Think of the educational value of such a museum, not only for pupils in the schools, but for the public generally. Let there be no misapprehension about

the extent of this localizing of the library. It goes without saying that such differentiation must be based upon a well-rounded general selection of books and material, such as that worked out in the forthcoming model library list of the A.L.A. In this adaptation to its environment, the modern library is working toward another ideal of a democracy, namely, such a library equipment as shall recognize and aid every permanent and worthy activity and interest of the community.

One of the fluent phrases of the times assures us that "these are days of organization and centralization." It would have been strange if the library movement had withstood this universal trend. Since 1876 there has a steady growth toward organization, first, in the technique of librarianship; second, in the organization of each library as a unit; third, in the establishment of coöperative relations, personal and official, between different libraries.

I shall, for obvious reasons, avoid commonplace remarks about cataloging and other technicalities. Suffice it to say that modern methods have transformed the library from a haystack to a post office, as it were—or just to recall our analogy—from undifferentiated protoplasm to a highly organized cortical substance. A friend of mine who was making historical studies in the south, was granted access to a small university library. He told me that there was no catalog, and he found it necessary for his own purposes to make a card catalog of the collection, which contained many volumes most valuable for his researches. Here was a part of the social memory isolated and comparatively inert because unorganized. But library methods have provided for all modernly administered book collections a key which makes every detail quickly available. This is a really remarkable achievement, and you must regard with pride and pleasure the extension of your methods to great industrial institutions. But the increase of periodical literature imposed upon librarians another task, that of indexing the articles ap-

pearing in magazines and reviews. From the first issue of Poole's index in 1848, this problem has been steadily attacked, and with increasing success. The coöperative, cumulative index marked a distinct advance in frequency of publication, as well as in other details. The proposals for coöperative cataloging, the present plan of supplying cards from the Congressional library, the existing arrangements for inter-library loans and exchanges, all suggest a significant tendency toward the unification of all libraries into a single flexible, coöperative system.

The formation of librarians' associations, district, state and national, with the consequent development of an esprit de corps, and of professional ideals, is only another aspect of this one great trend toward what Mr Spencer would call heterogeneous, definite and coherent integration.

As we survey this sweep of things, may we not foresee the not too distant day when the Congressional library will issue a great catalog containing, not the titles of any one library, but a national catalog, including the important books of all libraries? Why can not the library equal the enterprise of the mail order house? And then may we not fancy the Congressional library, through branches in Boston, Chicago, Denver and San Francisco, and by exchange arrangements with all other libraries, public and private, together with mailing privileges at a low rate, putting at the service of any citizen, especially in the rural regions, any book that he may desire? Of course, this is quite Utopian and socialistic, or if it isn't, Mr Dewey worked out all the details years ago. It may serve, however, as a graphic way of affirming that the ideal toward which the library, as an agency of the social memory, is working is such local and general organization of library resources as shall make it possible for any citizen to learn quickly what literature or picture or exhibit is available anywhere in the country, and to have a given thing put at his service in the briefest possible time.

Now we come to the library as an active, rather than a passive social institution. I purposely pass over the familiar, time-worn jests at the expense of those fossilized guardians of society's treasure-houses, who may be said to have held the mausoleum, safety deposit, or incubating theories as to the functions of the library. While such a Cerberus survives here and there, the day of activity, aggressiveness, advertising has been ushered in. The spirit which organized classes in connection with the mercantile libraries in 1820 has been revived, and new conditions and new zeal have transformed the whole library movement. Easy access to book shelves and stacks, information desks, children's rooms with story hours, and home visiting, bulletin boards, new book lists, special bibliographies on important current events published in local papers, postal cards and letters announcing to ministers, teachers and others the accession of new books of special professional interest—these are a few of the ways in which the library is expressing itself as an active force in the community.

The time must come when bibliographical experts will be found in every library to render special service at low fees. Such a staff could conduct courses in high schools and in the library, courses dealing with the use of library facilities—a pressing need in every community where dense ignorance as to how to consult a library collection still prevails.

These experts could give valuable aid to ministers, teachers, women's clubs, reading circles, Sunday schools and other individuals and groups. The librarians themselves are rendering effective aid in this field, but in any but the smallest library such a specialized service becomes an urgent necessity.

In university libraries especially there is a demand for library service of this sort. It is an absurd fetish, the idea that the true scholar must personally plod through the entire literature published in his field. The bibliographical expert will become a more and more important factor in the active side of

librarianship. In Bacon's *New Atlantis*, Salomon's house is depicted as a research university in which division of mental labor is carried to a high degree of perfection. One class of scholars are described as giving their whole time to making abstracts of all that has been done in a given field and then passing their data on to inventors who discover new truth on the basis of knowledge already attained.

The active library will constantly add to its resources. Picture collections are not uncommon. With the rapid spread of electrically lighted stereopticons in school, church and family, there is no reason why the library should not provide a collection of slides. And why should not pianola rolls ultimately be added to the library's resources? Every library should have a lecture room for children's story hours, for talks on books and art or any theme appropriate to the place. We do not forget that the first university extension lectures in the United States were given in connection with a public library, nor that many extension courses are now conducted in library buildings, where civic improvement and similar organizations also find a hospitable welcome.

Allusion has been made to the demands of schools, clubs, and individuals upon the library, but it is only fair to say that these demands are usually instigated by the alert and aggressive librarian, who, like the shrewd politician, arranges for a spontaneous uprising of the public, and then with charming acquiescence and docility, carries out the popular will. Certainly, tested by the criterion of activity, the American public owes much to the library which seeks to make the social memory prompt and efficient, constantly bringing knowledge of the past to bear upon the life of the present. Once more, the library has a selective function. It exercises a censorship which involves a delicate and sometimes a difficult duty. The primary responsibility may be said to rest with the publishers, but it is their output which the librarians must sift. Tests of accuracy, scholarship, literary work-

manship, ethical influence must be applied, but in no narrow, sectarian or provincial spirit. If there were no other reason why librarians should be truly broad and cultivated persons, this alone would be decisive. But more than this liberal attitude is necessary. These are days of specialized knowledge, and the librarian must rely largely for the formation of decisions upon authorities as these pass judgment in the more careful and scholarly reviews. The plan by which the A. L. A. has submitted its lists to scholars and others of presumably expert knowledge suggests the possible organization of this selective function on a systematic basis. The university library secures a large part of its accessions from well-considered demands of the various departments.

The power of the library to control the choice of its readers is limited in many ways. Objectionable literature finds a wide margin for circulation between rejection by the well-administered library and exclusion from the United States mails. The power of the library lies in the influence of suggestion and the gradual correction of taste in connection with good books. About the goodness of books there may be endless discussion. It is the fashion in certain quarters to speak slightly of fiction, and to regard the large percentage it attains in library circulation as a negligible quantity so far as educational influences go. This is manifestly absurd. Good fiction is the vehicle of science, history, literature, philosophy, and ethics. It gives a background for life; it affords material for personal growth, and makes for social solidarity. The very wave of imitation which sets a million people reading the same novel—offensive as this is to supersensitive individualists—is of vast importance in the fusing of persons into a people. This is not to say, of course, that the reading of historical, scientific, economic, and political works of a systematic character is not to be in every way encouraged.

Arnold Toynbee once said, Apathy can only be overcome by enthusiasm; and enthusiasm can only be aroused by

two things, first an ideal which takes the imagination by storm, and second a definite, intelligible plan for practice.

You are not apathetic in your work. We have been warned against sentimentality and effusiveness, yet the fundamental truth is that nothing worth while is accomplished in this world without the combination of enthusiasm with wisdom, the ideal with the plan. I have tried by this survey to present in its broad outlines the social aspect of your chosen work. There is satisfaction in the reflection that you are helping to enrich and broaden individual lives, but there is even greater stimulus in the thought that you are distributing knowledge and ideals which are being elaborated by the social processes into types and standards, elements of national character that will endure through generations; that in seeking to multiply connections with the people, in adapting your resources to their needs, in organizing these resources in the most available way, in arousing an interest among those whom you would serve, in carefully sifting the material which comes from the press, you are rendering a vital service to your country; you are helping to administer the social memory. This is an ideal which may well "take the imagination by storm," and fill you not with the evanescent emotion of the mass meeting, but with that steady glow of enthusiasm which endures in the daily duty. This ideal becomes effective through your technique, but that in turn, without the vision, whatever its service to others, is for you a mere lifeless mechanism.

With such an ideal you are to be counted happy mortals. You may well live the life of the mind and of the spirit, loyal to what Watson has so finely called "the things that are more excellent."

The grace of friendship, mind and heart,
Linked with their fellow heart and mind;
The gains of science, gifts of art,
The sense of oneness with one's kind,
The thirst to know and understand,
A large and liberal discontent,
These are the gifts in life's rich hand,
The things that are more excellent.

Library Institutes*

Nina K. Preston, Hall-Fowler library,
Ionia, Mich.

Organization is the order of the day; coöperation, the spirit of the times. Whatever is good must be shared is the universal law. "Us four and no more" is a relic of the good old times long since past. Long, long ago in the hill country of Judea was advanced the startling idea that greatness consisted not in the abundance of things a man possessed but in the amount of service he could render unto others. Never man spake like this humble Nazarene, never was a life so eloquent, never influence so far reaching. The simple statement uttered so long ago is now recognized by all thinkers as a universal truth. Only by coöperation can we achieve the highest results in any line of work. One manifestation of this spirit is in the multiplied conventions held throughout the length and breadth of our land, in all lines of business, by all classes of people. No occupation so lowly, no trade so mean that it hasn't its convention or association. The results can be seen in renewed activities, more enduring work.

The founders of the educational system of Michigan took position in advance of the thought of their day and the newer states of the Union, Judge Cooley tells us, in framing their educational systems have been glad to follow the example of Michigan, and have had fruitful and satisfactory success in proportion as they have adhered to it.

In the first half of the nineteenth century, teachers' institutes were established. They were intended to influence the public in favor of the free school idea, and to help the teachers, many of whom were untrained and ill paid. No one thinks now of questioning the wisdom of that movement. We of Michigan are proud of our schools, and justly so I believe, but hasn't the institute been one of the strong factors in our educational progress? The institute

does not take the place of the normal school or college. It can not do that, but it can and does form a link and an important link in the educational life of the district teacher. Many of the teachers in our country districts can not afford the normal training, at least not at the beginning of their career, and yet they need some knowledge of teaching methods, some idea of what others are doing, some ideal to strive for. The teacher, who for two or three weeks of her vacation is brought into close touch with many other teachers doing the same work, striving toward the same ideal, has been benefited exceedingly herself and so have her boys and girls. To be instructed for a few days, even, by a prominent educator who has made teaching his life work, does it not give one a more exalted opinion of his work, a broader view of life, a higher ideal? These are results that can not be estimated in dollars and cents. (Bishop Spalding, is it not, who says that they have done most for progress in education who have done most to enlighten and inspire teachers?)

If teachers' institutes are needed, and they seem to be, if one may judge by their being held year after year, why are not institutes for librarians needed even more? Librarians are more isolated than teachers; their need of inspiration and encouragement is fully as great. May they not feel like Elijah of old, who, when his life was threatened, exclaimed: The children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thine altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword; and I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life to take it away. Poor Elijah did not know about institutes and associations, but was that not really what his nature craved? He was indeed ignorant of the fact that there were many others serving the same God. His discouragement and faint-heartedness was dispelled by the Lord's answer: Yet I have left me seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed unto Baal.

The first general concerted movement of librarians resulted in the American

*Read at Michigan library association meeting, Port Huron, May 27, 1904.

library association. That movement resulting in so much good was followed by state organizations, then in the larger cities sprang up the local club. In many of our states there is still a missing link in the chain of power and that is the reaching of the smaller library.

A very selfish woman died and went to Hades. Not at all pleased with her surroundings, she looked about for a better abiding place and finally went to Peter with the request that she might have a change of residence. Peter asked her if she had ever done anything to help anybody else. After much thought, she remembered that she had once given a carrot to a poor woman. Peter offered to take her from Hades, if the carrot was strong enough to bear her weight. She took hold of one end of it and soon felt herself being drawn up slowly by means of the carrot. Some poor soul, anxious also to escape, caught hold of her, another seeing this means of escape, caught on and soon many were clinging one to the other, and being slowly lifted up from Hades. At last the woman whose one carrot was helping her to a place of safety, looked about and seeing the number of people who were escaping from Hades by means of her carrot, became indignant at their dependence upon her and shook them loose. As soon as she was free from those who needed her assistance, her carrot broke and back she fell, a victim of her own selfishness.

The need of help and inspiration for the librarian is in inverse ratio to the size of the library. The smaller the library, the greater the need of help. The city librarian, like the city teacher, is usually paid a livable salary, one which enables him to attend the state and national associations, and these are found to be extremely helpful, but they do not reach the one who is most in need of help, the librarian of the small library, the one who can not afford library training, doesn't attend the associations, hasn't heard of library journals, or couldn't take them if she had, and doesn't know how to make the best use of the material within reach. In our smaller com-

munities are libraries open only a few hours a day, or a day a week, with a poorly paid librarian or oftentimes one whose services receive no compensation. Surely these are the ones who would be grateful for help, for sympathy, for knowledge of methods used in other libraries.

Many of our prominent librarians have realized this need, and five states have already placed themselves on record with their helpful institutes.

It may be profitable for us to review for a few moments the history of library institutes.

The first library institute of which we have any record was held in the Public library of Indianapolis, Dec. 29-31, 1896, under the auspices of the Indiana library association. Miss Ahern, then secretary of the association, planned the institute. Regular institute methods were employed, and the audience responded in regular class order. The instructor was Miss Marvin, at present library instructor of the Wisconsin library commission. The average attendance was 60. The expenses of this institute were met by contributions from five public libraries, the Library Bureau, and a publishing house. A resolution for a repetition of the institute was carried, but not carried out, owing, doubtless, to discord which was said to have crept into the association.

In September of 1897 the Wisconsin library commission took up the idea, and library institutes have ever since been held at indefinite periods as occasion demanded. The state has been divided into 18 districts for institute purposes.

In Massachusetts the idea of an institute was first broached at a meeting of the clubs of the state in October, 1900. Five were held during the next year in the western part of the state, representing in attendance between 30 and 40 towns.

In New York at the Lake Placid meeting in 1901, Pres. Elmendorf in his opening address emphasized the importance of this line of work, and a special committee on library institutes

was appointed. This committee was authorized to hold during the year not more than 10 institutes in different parts of the state. These institutes were most successful, and are now a regular feature of the library work of New York state.

Pennsylvania next wheeled into line with one institute held in Philadelphia by the Pennsylvania library club in 1902. Librarians of the small public libraries in villages and towns within 25 miles of the city were invited. Fifteen Pennsylvania towns were represented, five New Jersey libraries and one Delaware.

This first institute held in Pennsylvania was the only one I have been privileged to attend. It was full of inspiration and practical help. The question box on children's reading, in charge of a librarian who has been remarkably successful in dealing with children, especially boys, and more especially bad boys, was as good as a tonic, for as one librarian said, she could hardly wait to get home and test the new ideas she had received. No librarian could have attended that institute without gaining untold benefits, yet this year's institute was considered much better in its results. Instead of an attendance of 40, only 10 were present, but they were not in any way embarrassed by the presence of city librarians for they were not invited.

The institutes for teachers are usually convened from one to five or six weeks, dependent usually upon the amount of money available for the purpose. Librarians who haven't the long summer vacation often find it impossible to give so much time, and therefore the length of the library institute is usually limited to two or three days, but much can be done in that length of time by earnest instructors. The aim is to give not only information but inspiration. They afford an opportunity for librarians to discuss library methods with much more freedom than is possible in the associations. The topics chosen are practical and treated in a practical manner. Miss Hazeltine in describing one of the institutes of which she was conductor says that the librarians were very eager

to attend an institute the next year. It was not so much the technical instruction that they received, although that was very valuable, but the friendly, helpful, sympathetic touch which seemed to mean so much to them.

In regard to the practical details, New York's management is well worth studying. The New York library association appointed a Library institute committee consisting of three members, serving one, two, and three years, with an annual appointment thereafter of one member to serve for three years; the secretary of the association to be ex officio the continuing member of the committee. The state was divided into eight institute districts and a secretary appointed for each district. The local secretary was given a list of the libraries in his district and was urged to become personally acquainted with the needs of the district. He was advised to express cordial sympathy, to arouse interest, and excite expectation among the librarians. Printed circulars were sent by the secretary to the libraries in the district, and he was expected to make suggestions to the committee regarding time and place of meeting, local speakers and so on. After hearing from these local secretaries, the committee arranged the dates, prepared the programs and gave the local secretaries a month in which to complete the local arrangements and send out the invitations. Three sessions were held, two instructional and one inspirational. At all of the meetings at least two members of the institute committee were present. The following subjects were discussed in all the institutes held the first year:

How to select books, How to order books, The business record of books bought, How to arrange books on the shelves, Catalogs good and bad, Principles of a charging system, Necessary records and reports, Suggestions as to how to increase one's efficiency as a librarian. The general theme for 1903 was Making the most of the small library.

One of the interesting features of the

library institute held in Philadelphia was the practical illustration of mending books, by the binder of the Free library of Philadelphia. The use of printed cards was explained by someone from the Library of congress.

The success of a library institute depends to quite an extent upon the local secretary. He should be willing to coöperate in the library work of the district; he should give time to the study of the library conditions of the district; he should be a person who could awaken new interest in the work in that locality; he should feel responsible for the library institute.

We would be false to our well-known characteristic as Americans did we not inquire the cost. Taking for example the first Pennsylvania institute. The Pennsylvania library club paid the expense of printing the programs and notices, Drexel institute offered the use of its rooms and the Library Bureau furnished examples of charging systems, catalog cases, and so forth. The expense, I am told by Miss Krueger, can be easily managed within \$10 provided the room is not extra. The expense of the New York institutes was shared by the State association, the State library and several private individuals who gave their services and paid their own bills.

Dr J. H. Canfield says: Library institutes not only pay in the largest sense of the word, but are absolutely essential everywhere to the most rapid and the most sure advancement of all library interests and library work.

Michigan can not have the distinction of being the pioneer in this work, but she can refrain from being at the tail end of the procession. A day a year of inspiration and instruction for those sitting in the shadow of the small library will not only be of untold benefit to the one helped, but also to the library interests of the state. May it not hasten the day when Michigan shall be in the front rank in library thought and work—nay, may it not mean that Michigan shall herself be the leader in library victories yet untold, undreamed of?

County Library Institutes in Ontario*

E. A. Hardy, secretary Ontario library association

The suggestion for county library institutes comes from the teachers' institutes of each inspectorate in the province. These are held annually in central locations, are generally attended by the teachers, and are of great value both in instruction and in inspiration. This paper aims to discuss an application of this idea to library interests.

The people to be reached by county library institutes are not the librarians only, but the members of the library boards and the general public. At present much of the work of the library is done by the library boards and this must remain so in the case of perhaps the majority of our libraries for years to come. Public-spirited men and women with a love for books and reading and a desire that the rising generation have library advantages are, and will be, those who not only supervise, but actually perform the work of the library in scores upon scores of instances. The Ontario library association should aim to assist these people in every possible way, as well as striving to benefit the librarians proper. The interest of the general public, too, should be aroused and deepened, and the ideas of the function of the library, especially its place in our educational system, brought clearly and forcibly home.

In planning a county library institute, one must consider the place, the program, the speakers and the time. I would suggest a one-day meeting, with sessions in afternoon and evening, say at 2 p. m. and 8 p. m. Refreshments or some social feature could be scheduled for 6 p. m., so that those in attendance could become acquainted and interchange ideas freely. The place should be as central and accessible as possible, varying, however, from year to year. The speakers should be, for the most part, local, with one outsider, perhaps, to represent the expert side of library

*Read before Ontario library association in 1903.

work and the Ontario library association. I give here a suggested program for such a meeting.

	County	No. of libraries	Suggested place of next meeting.
Suggested program	Bruce	23	
	Dufferin	10	Orangeville
	Elgin	11	St Thomas
	Grey	19	Owen Sound
	Leeds, Grenville and Dundas	21	Brockville
	Huron	16	
	Kent	13	Chatham
	Lambton	14	Sarnia
	Lanark	9	Smiths' Falls
	Middlesex	13	London
Afternoon, 2-5.	Ontario	12	Uxbridge
	Oxford	13	Woodstock
	Perth	8	Stratford
	Simcoe	16	Collingwood
	Victoria	11	Lindsay
	Waterloo	14	Galt
	Wellington	17	Guelph
	Wentworth	8	Hamilton
	York	21	Toronto
Evening, 8-10.			

For the evening meeting there would be no trouble in getting some minister or public man to discuss the topics suggested or some library topic that would be germane, e. g., Charles Dickens, Shakespeare, Books and reading.

The range of subjects for the afternoon meetings is very considerable, as the following suggestions will indicate. You might discuss, Classification, Shelving, Should we have a juvenile department and should it be classified, How to get information as to best books and magazine articles on any given subject, Should a library undertake to create and guide the popular taste, Coöperation of library and school, Printed annual reports, Methods to increase circulation, Card catalogs, Library journals and literature, Library buildings, Duties of library trustees, Canadian literature, Summer schools for librarians, Value of library associations, An Ontario library commission.

A display of modern library helps, such as card catalogs, accession books, bibliographies, charging systems, etc., would be a decidedly helpful feature and one which could probably be arranged in most cases by correspondence with the firms that handle these things.

The counties that seem most suited for such meetings as herein suggested are noted in the following table, which gives county, number of libraries in each county, and place of meeting.

The expense of these county library institutes would be very light, as postage, printing, and traveling expenses of outside speakers would be almost the only items of expense and \$10 to \$15 should be ample. A contribution of \$1 from each library would easily meet the expense.

I would suggest, in closing, that a committee be appointed by the Ontario library association to go into this matter thoroughly and endeavor to organize these county library institutes wherever practicable, for I am strongly of the opinion that they would prove of very great value in advancing the library movement throughout the province.

Library Institutes

F. Mabel Winchell, librarian of City library, Manchester, N. H.

Library institutes. What is their aim? To carry the good news to those who have not heard it. The good news of modern library ideals and methods, of sympathetic fellowship between co-workers, of exchange of ideas, of liberality, of cordiality, and—yes, of responsibility. We librarians have sometimes been accused of taking ourselves too seriously, but we certainly should not escape criticism did we esteem our calling lightly. Some might hesitate to include responsibility in the "good news" but Mabel says, It is our part to welcome

responsibility, to crave the difficult work, to seek the dangerous duty; for these are our divinest opportunities of service and growth.

If this be true, we certainly would not cross responsibility from the list. The responsibility of the librarian in times past was to guard the books, to see that they were safely kept; their usefulness was merely an incidental matter. The responsibility now, is to get the books used and always the best books for the purpose.

It is true that state meetings have the same end in view, but a small percentage only of the attendance at the state meetings is from the country towns and villages. This is not without its sufficient cause. The place of meeting is far from the majority of the small towns and to attend would mean expense to the librarian out of proportion to her salary, for it would usually necessitate the staying over night. Moreover, the program for the state meetings must be so made as to be helpful both to large and small libraries. This oftentimes makes a part of the meeting of little practical benefit to the worker from the small town. Now the library institute is planned to overcome just these difficulties.

First, it goes to the librarian of the small town or village; that is, the institute is held, not in one of the cities or large towns of the state, but in one of the small towns or villages, and is not for the whole state, but only for a small section, thus making it not only possible but easy for those in that section to attend. It is also brought to the notice of the people of the community more prominently than it is possible to do with a distant meeting.

In the next place, it makes a point of dealing with those problems which are of vital interest and importance to the small library; and lastly, it aims to bring the workers in the small libraries into personal touch with those of longer or wider experience.

At first glance, this last item may not seem to be a very important one; but to any librarian who has attended a meeting of the American library asso-

ciation and has felt the inspiration and the uplift which come from those gatherings, and from meeting personally those who stand at the head of our profession, it is far from insignificant. Dr Canfield of Columbia college says on this point—There is nothing, after all, equal to coming into actual contact with the flesh and blood of a worker along the same line that you are working, one whom you know has met with success and who can impress you immediately with the reason for that success in his or her personality.

To bring these busy and successful workers to the small meetings of course involves expense. There are also various other expenses in connection with such meetings. They entail correspondence, and should be accompanied by the distribution of lists and a variety of literature helpful to the librarian in her work.

The school and the library, the two educational institutions of our country, should, and in large measure do, go hand in hand. The school, however, in the matter of institutes is several steps in advance, but we are following on. Teachers' institutes have been held for a good many years, while library institutes are still in their infancy. Massachusetts, I believe, is the only one of the New England states that has yet undertaken this work, and she did not begin it until 1901, while New York state held her first institute in 1902. The aim of the institute is the same in both states, though carried on somewhat differently. In New York the State library association holds one meeting yearly and that always at the same place, Lake Placid. When it was decided to hold these meetings at the same place every year instead of in different parts of the state, the association decided that something must be done for those who could not attend this annual meeting. They therefore divided the state into districts and made plans for holding one institute a year in each of the districts.

In Massachusetts the institutes consist of only two sessions, and care is taken so to arrange these sessions that those who

attend may not have to stay over night. The teacher is also taken into consideration in planning the time and the program of the meetings, and whenever possible they are held at an hour when the schools are not in session. In a number of cases the schools have been closed for a day or half a day, that the teachers might be present at these institute meetings. And once or twice the scholars have also been in attendance and someone has spoken especially to them on what may be found in books, how to use the library, or some allied subject.

In the Massachusetts institutes I believe especial emphasize has been brought to bear upon coöperation between the library and the school, though it has also been the aim to encourage coöperation between the churches and other organizations for local education and culture.

The instructional and inspirational are not separated in these sessions, as in the New York institutes, and the instructional holds a somewhat subordinate place. This, do doubt, is largely owing to the fact that the meetings are planned with the hope of interesting the community at large in the library as well as with the intent to give the librarian specific help, doubtless believing that the best help the librarian can have is the active, intelligent, vital interest of the people.

There are different ways of preparing for these institutes and the preparation is no insignificant part of the work.

In New York state they have, I understand, in each district a secretary whose duty it is to help prepare for these meetings. With districts as large as 50 miles square this may be feasible, but with much smaller districts often it would be impossible to find anyone in the section who would be sufficiently interested to make the work a success.

This narrows it down to correspondence or to personal work in the field to be covered. There is no question in my mind about the superiority of the latter method.

One summer afternoon Ida F. Farrar,

then secretary of the Western Massachusetts library club, and myself started out to visit a group of towns to which we were entire strangers. A few letters relative to our purpose had passed between the secretary and the librarian of the town where we hoped to hold the institute, but nothing further had been done.

At the first town that we visited we made known our purposes and our plans. We were received with courtesy but little interest was shown until, in the course of the conversation it became known that we were making this trip simply because of our hearty interest in the work and not as paid agents. Then the atmosphere seemed to warm at once. A horse and carriage, with a young man to drive, were put at our disposal for two days, and in spite of urgent offers, not a cent would the owner take for their use.

During our three days' trip we found that as soon as our object was clearly understood people in every place were interested, kind, and most hospitable. We visited librarians, trustees, school committee men, principals, and clergymen, going to these persons wherever they were to be found. Sometimes it was in a store, at other times the hayfield or the street, and still other times in homes of luxury. But wherever we found them we were met with the same courtesy and the same kind offers of interest and help.

We hoped to make this institute one which should bring the schools and libraries into closer and more helpful relations. To this end we asked that the schools might be closed so that the teachers could be present. When the day of the meeting arrived it was found that four out of the seven towns visited had closed their schools in order that their teachers might attend the institute.

Two interesting sessions were held with large attendance at each, and results were felt to be very satisfactory.

This was one experience; the other was quite different. It was understood that a certain small town would be glad to have a library institute held there.

The principal of the school seemed much interested and all arrangements were made through correspondence with him. His letters were encouraging and we felt quite confident of a full and successful meeting. The day and hour arrived, and with it the several officers and members of the club who were to speak, and two teachers from one of the neighboring towns. Other than these not a soul appeared; not a person from the town, not even the principal who had made the arrangements for the meeting. The morning session had to be omitted and the program all put into the afternoon session for which a small audience gathered. Various minor occurrences added to the feeling of failure and the members of the club went home from this meeting more discouraged than they cared to admit.

There is something in personal contact that can not be expressed nor conveyed by the written page, however well composed. There is a warmth and an interest in one which can only be shadowed by the other.

It is only right, however, that I should add that later information showed that even this institute was followed by good results. Nevertheless, I believe the results in the case of a meeting prepared for by personal work, in contrast to one prepared for by correspondence, are enough better to warrant the difference in time and expense.

Much care should be taken, in preparing for institutes, to study local conditions and problems, so that the topics assigned for the meeting may be of real interest and of practical value.

There is much danger in this work of harm being done through the feeling or the suspicion of condescension. Condescension on the part of the worker, or the suspicion of it in the one whom we wish to help, is apt to work resentment rather than encouragement. But if on the part of the worker there is no feeling of condescension, but only a desire to share with others the good things which he himself enjoys, this, though it may not be believed at first, will be felt sooner or later.

The librarian, and even the trustee, after having been to one of these institutes, will make twice the effort to attend a library club meeting, because they then know what a library meeting is and have formed some idea of the help and inspiration which may be obtained from it.

Do these institutes pay considering the time, and effort, and expense which they necessitate?

Let me answer that question by quoting again from Dr Canfield. He says: We believe, therefore, that library institutes, in the retroactive effect upon the state association itself, in their stimulus to do better work and more definite work, . . . in the opportunity for each of the minor librarians to detail by questions her own grievances and her own difficulties, and to find from experienced hands relief in explanation and suggestion and encouragement, in the meetings which are held for the public and in which the public unites, and in the stimulus which comes to the entire community because of this thought of the public library as part of the system of public education, we believe that library institutes not only pay, in the largest sense of the word, but are absolutely essential everywhere to the most rapid and the most sure advancement of all library interests and library work.

The Century will continue to print beautiful and representative examples of work by American painters and sculptors. It will have also articles on men who are coming to the front in art abroad, including Mucha, Zuloaga, and the German secessionists. An article on Children's costumes in the nineteenth century will have exquisite illustrations by Maurice Boutet de Monvel. The late J. L. Gérôme will be the subject of reminiscences which will be accompanied by interesting illustrative material. A paper on the Art influence of Philadelphia by Harrison S. Morrison will soon appear.

Public Libraries

(MONTHLY)

Library Bureau	- - - - -	Publishers
M. E. AHERN	- - - - -	Editor
Subscription	- - - - -	\$1 a year
Five copies to one library	- - - - -	\$4 a year
Single number	- - - - -	20 cents

PUBLIC LIBRARIES does not appear in August or September, and 10 numbers constitute a volume.

To Oregon in 1905—The decision of the A. L. A. council to hold the A. L. A. meeting of 1905 in Portland, Ore., continues to meet with much approbation from the general membership. A little question has arisen as to just what the executive board will consider "satisfactory rates on railroads and at hotels." But there need be no uneasiness as to the outcome. Everything goes to show that the railroads, that is the middle and western roads, are anxious for as many people of intelligence and judgment to view the western country as is possible and they are not so short-sighted as to put obstacles in the way of such a party as the A. L. A. is likely to bring together.

Proper effort and the application of business judgment in the matter will bring satisfactory results. These are to be expected from such a man as Pres. Richardson, so that there is not the slightest reason to apprehend any lack of good management and final success in securing reasonable rates of travel and the attendant expenses. Librarians are safe in planning even now to go to Oregon next summer.

"The first in the field"—In a recent newspaper account of the opening of a special department in a library the statement was made that this feature was not generally found in public libraries and the first one of the kind was established only three years ago. The chief thing about this statement is that it is not so, and the next in importance is that such statements are entirely too common occurrences. It reflects on the library and its management. It deceives the immediate public for only a little while

and when, as often happens, the public plumes itself on the situation, it soon finds out the facts in the case and the library loses standing at home and abroad, sometimes to a degree that is not merited. There is nothing that kills the spirit of appreciation so quickly and so completely as a boastful presentation of superiority where it is unwarranted, and sometimes where it is. Let another praise you and not yourself, is as good library doctrine as it is moral law. "The first in the field" carries in itself not much value; the prime question is what have we done since we reached there? Of course all this does not mean that the library and its facilities are not to be kept constantly before the public. That is necessary, but do it fairly, full of that spirit that is not puffed up and doth not behave itself unseemly.

The library spirit—In almost no other profession is there to be found so much of the altruistic spirit as there is among librarians. Often with what seems insurmountable barriers before them, librarians as a class undertake their work and by the very force of their own faith in the ideals involved compel the fruition of their efforts, and one of the most gratifying factors in the situation is the fact that the ideals expand as they are approached and lead on constantly to greater effort toward still greater results. Whatever may be the personal failings of the individual, as a librarian he is optimistic, perhaps because there is so little room for anything else. If there is a limit, where the soil to be worked is unfruitful, there are no signs of it yet. Here and there, 'tis true, the frailties of human nature are sometimes apparent in the results or conditions, but even then it is seldom that some excuse does not appear that makes one pass them over "more in sorrow than in anger," the more that their power to do harm is generally overcome by a preponderance of other powers to do good, an apt illustration of Mrs Browning's words:

There are nettles everywhere,
But smooth green grasses are more common
still;
The blue heaven is larger than the cloud.

And again of that other thought,

Thou shalt be served thyself by every sense
Of service which thou renderest,

there is nowhere a better living example than in a wide-awake, up-to-date, sympathetic librarian, who is indeed moved by the true "library spirit."

The A. L. A. catalog—At last the long-looked-for A. L. A. catalog is before us. Hardly was the last copy of the former A. L. A. catalog out of the hands of the printer until it was said the edition would be revised, enlarged, brought up to date and reprinted. Since then there have always been those who have been looking forward to its coming. Now it is here, and right heartily will it be welcomed.

The catalog contains nearly 8000 titles selected for a general public library. As is stated in the editor's preface, in order to make the catalog helpful to very small libraries starting with only 1000v., the choice of the thousand best to buy first are marked with 1, the next 1000 to be added are marked with 2, and so on to 5000. In this way libraries starting can use the catalog as a buying list and find it helpful.

The catalog is arranged in two parts. The first part is given on the decimal system—the list is arranged by classes. A classification of such public documents as properly belong in such a collection is added, as is also a subject index. This is a very helpful arrangement for small libraries.

The second part contains the dictionary catalog, with both the decimal and expansive classification numbers given.

The whole catalog is very fully supplied with explanatory notes in all its divisions and also with bibliographic data and evaluation. The catalog is issued in cloth binding and in paper covers. It may be had also in parts separately bound in paper.

The Library of Congress issued the catalog after it had been prepared by the New York state library with Melvil Dewey editor, May Seymour and Mrs H. L. Elmendorf associate editors, as-

sisted to a large extent by the Library of Congress staff, and more than 250 collaborators and critics.

League of Library Commissions

Committee meeting

The executive committee of the League of library commissions, which was organized at St Louis during the A. L. A. meeting in October, met under call from the chairman at Library Bureau, Chicago, Monday, November 28, to discuss plans of coöperation. There were present H. E. Legler of Wisconsin, chairman, Miss Tyler of Iowa, secretary, Miss Baldwin of Minnesota, Miss Hoagland of Indiana and Miss Marvin of Wisconsin. The immediate coöperative work to be undertaken being the preparation and printing of lists, the committee had asked coöperation from the A. L. A. publishing board in this matter. The Publishing board placed before the commission committee several propositions in regard to the matter and expressed hearty interest in the needs of the commissions for this printed matter.

Miss Clatworthy, chairman of the O. L. A. committee, presented their plan for the consideration and approval of the league committee and resolutions approving of the plan and recommending that the cards be produced for the books in the lists issued by the league, were passed. The several enterprises in the hands of the various commissions were discussed at length with a view to closer coöperation and the avoidance as far as possible of the duplication of such work as might be done by one commission and the results be utilized by the others. It was decided that as far as it seemed best for the growing value and interests of commission work that the facilities at the command of the A. L. A. publishing board be utilized as far as practical in diffusing the information which the commissions could furnish as it is called for by less favored communities.

Some International Aspects of the Conference *

C. W. Andrews, John Crerar library, Chicago

The actual form of the conference was somewhat peculiar. It was supposed originally that the World's Fair authorities would themselves organize a series of international congresses such as have been held in connection with most of the recent expositions, and that a library congress would be one of them. It seemed best to the authorities, however, to undertake to organize officially only one congress, that of Arts and sciences, which would set forth the present condition of human knowledge; and to leave to private initiative the organization of all other meetings, though cordially welcoming them, and furnishing them suitable meeting places. In this general congress library administration was necessarily a very minor topic, being treated as a sub-division of educational methods. While, in consequence of this decision, there was no machinery adequate and available for the calling of an international congress, still the Council of the A. L. A. thought that so many of our foreign colleagues would visit St Louis as to make it both practical and desirable to give their conference a wider scope than usual. They accordingly voted to invite them to an international meeting. The president, Dr Herbert Putnam, librarian of Congress, personally presented this invitation to many of the leading European libraries, and it is as much to his cordiality in inviting as to his grace in receiving that the success of the meeting is due.

Some of those who had promised to attend, unfortunately, when the time came, were unable to do so. Notwithstanding these disappointments, nearly every nation of western Europe was represented. The roll included: Austria, Belgium, Chili, China, France, Germany, Great Britain, Guatemala, Holland, Honduras, Italy, Japan, Mex-

ico, Norway, Peru and Sweden. In order that these delegates might feel at home, the association did itself the honor of electing them all honorary vice-presidents, and a good portion of the program was filled with papers by them, or transmitted through them. Among the delegates may be mentioned especially: Dr Aksel Andersson, vice-librarian of the University of Uppsala; Dr Guido Biagi, librarian of the Biblioteca Mediceo-Laurenziana in Florence and editor of the *Revista delle Biblioteche e degli Archivi*; Dr L. Stanley Jast, official representative of the Library association of Great Britain; M. Henri La Fontaine, director of the Institut international de bibliographie at Brussels; Mr Haakon Nyhuus of the Deichmanske bibliotek in Christiania, well known to many of us when he was at the Newberry library; Prof. Dr R. Pietschmann of the University at Göttingen; Prof. Dr Wolfstieg, librarian of the Prussian house of delegates.

The results of the meeting may be considered in two aspects—the impersonal and the personal. Of impersonal results there may be mentioned the better knowledge of present library conditions abroad, the better knowledge of the present national or international bibliographical undertakings, and the inception or discussion of plans for future international relations. To the first of them, a better knowledge of library conditions abroad, one of the six sessions was originally devoted, but for various reasons the program was not adhered to, and these papers were scattered more or less over other sessions. The papers included reviews of the library situation in Great Britain, Italy, Norway, Denmark, and New Zealand, besides papers on Prussia and Austria which were read by title only. It is unnecessary to go into details, because not only will these papers be printed in full in the Proceedings of the conference, but they are largely supplemented and confirmed by the papers in the last number of *PUBLIC LIBRARIES*. This number, by the way, had been pre-

* From address before Chicago library club, Nov. 10, 1904.

pared independently of the program of the association, and in order not to appear to anticipate it, was very kindly held back by the editor after it was ready for publication.

Under the second head, of information in regard to present international bibliographical undertakings, there were papers by M. La Fontaine on the work of the Institut international de bibliographie; by H. H. Field on that of the Concilium bibliographicum at Zurich, by Dr Cyrus Adler of the Smithsonian institution on the International catalog of scientific literature at London, and by Dr J. D. Thompson of Washington on the Handbook of learned societies in preparation by the Carnegie institution.

Under the third head, the inception of plans for the future, involving international support or action, there should be mentioned first the suggestion made by the Italian delegates, repeated by Pres. Francis in his address of welcome, and referred to repeatedly and favorably throughout the conference, that the time had come for an international association of librarians, or perhaps rather an international federation of national associations. Of course no definite action could be taken at such a meeting, but the suggestion was considered by the Council, and a committee appointed to report on the best form of such a union, and the steps necessary to bring it about. It must not be forgotten that the matter is made even more delicate than any question of international action always is, by the fact that the congress of librarians meeting in Paris in 1900 provided for quinquennial meetings in the future. Unfortunately, that congress was not as fully representative as it should have been, and it remains to be seen whether its action is likely to have positive and permanently valuable results.

Two or three other plans for international action in library matters were brought before the conference, which it was thought would be proper subjects for such an international union to undertake or support. Dr Richardson of Princeton urged the preparation

of an international catalog of manuscripts, and an extension of international library loans for the benefit of both American and European libraries. He stated that so many valuable manuscripts have been brought to this country that we could now offer some reciprocal advantage in such a system of loans. W. Dawson Johnston of the Library of congress proposed an international library publication in the form of a year book, to summarize library progress, abstract important communications on library journals, etc. The Italian representatives suggested an international coördination of national cataloging.

A less ambitious plan, but one more likely to be adopted soon, was the official proposition from the Library association of the United Kingdom, to bring their rules for cataloging and those of the American library association into agreement. Dr Jast, in presenting this proposition, pointed out that very serious differences, not only as to details, but as to the form of the main entry in important and large classes of books, exist between English and American cataloging on the one side, and the general European practice on the other. On the other hand, the differences between the English and American codes are not numerous, and for the most part relate to details only. The British library association thought that these could be settled in a fair spirit of compromise to the great advantage of the English reading public. While it is true that the committee of the A. L. A. has formulated rules which have been printed by the Library of congress, it is fortunate that they have not been definitely adopted by the association, and that the matter is still in such a position that the English proposition can be given unprejudiced consideration. While no one not a member of the A. L. A. committee on cataloging rules knows better than I the time and earnest thought given to the matter by its members, I am free to say that the result in many respects falls far short of what such a code

should be. I welcome, therefore, the prospect of bringing our catalogs into closer agreement with the best literary forms of the languages represented in them.

In conclusion let me speak briefly of the personal results of the conference. It has been said and said truly that after all it is not the papers or formal discussions which render attendance at the conferences valuable, but the personal acquaintances and meetings which take place there. If this is so in the case of our regular meetings, how much more so in a meeting of the character of the one just past. Even for those members of the association who were not so fortunate as to meet personally our foreign delegates, there must have been a distinct feeling of added dignity to the association in their presence; a sense of personal pleasure and profit in listening to the scholarly addresses of such men as Drs Andersson, Biagi, and Pietschmann, and a consciousness of wider knowledge in learning from and by them of European ideals of librarians and libraries. For those of us who were fortunate enough to meet these gentlemen personally, there has been in addition the pleasure of many social meetings, both formal and informal; the discovery that our colleagues, were not only scholars but also good companions, and the formation of acquaintances and friendships which may well be lasting pleasures for the future.

And we may hope that the advantages of this meeting were not all on one side. Certainly the attitude of the visitors toward the conference was most respectful and their expressions of satisfaction were warm. Moreover, many of them were taking the opportunity of the visit to make a careful study of American libraries, and those whom I talked with were convinced of the value that such a study had been or would be to them.

Finally I can not close without referring to the closing exercises of the conference. In place of the usual brief announcement of the presiding officer that

the conference had completed its business and stood adjourned, we were given the pleasure of listening to short farewell addresses from several of the foreign representatives. Señor Velasco spoke for the Spanish-American states; Dr Jast for Great Britain; Mr. Robbers for Holland; M. La Fontaine for Belgium; Dr Wolfstieg for Germany; Dr Andersson for Sweden; Dr Su for China, and Dr Biagi for Italy. As each spoke in his native language, we listened to addresses in Spanish, English, Dutch, French, German, Swedish, Chinese, and Italian.

Probably it would be incorrect to assume that as many people followed Dr Su's address understandingly as followed Dr Jast's, but still I think that most of us felt pleasure in taking part in a meeting of which it might properly be assumed that some at least would understand each of these addresses, and an added sense of dignity in belonging to a calling which could furnish such a meeting.

Impressions of A. L. A. in 1904

Mr Hild of the Public library, Chicago, on being asked for an impression of the A. L. A. conference, said he had nothing to offer unless it be to note the distance the association had traveled in the estimation of *hoi polloi* since the meeting of 1887 at Milwaukee. At that time a prosperous-looking individual who might have been, and probably was, a commercial traveler, asked who were the strange visitors in crowds at the Plankinton hotel. He was answered that those were librarians—custodians of all the knowledge contained in books. Whereupon, said Mr Hild, omitting the expletives and adjectives, the prosperous-looking individual replied, They may know a lot, but they don't look it.

Now, said Mr Hild, just listen to Geneva Lane in the St Louis *Globe-Democrat* talk about librarians in the year 1904:

The librarians are just about the best-looking set of people we have had assembling with us since we have been keeping open house to conventions.

The men are mostly handsome—not killingly so, but well worth looking at, and all have what we usually call “good faces” for lack of a more specific definition.

The women are mostly handsome too—not entrancingly so, but in that clear-eyed, good-complexioned way that is very fetching, and we feel that we could trust any one of them to map out a course of reading for us that would be the very best imaginable for our manners and morals, and we would not think of entering any of the quiet reading-rooms presided over by them without first wiping our feet on the doormat and using our handkerchief. We have not been able to pick up among the women any radically new hints in the way of feminine apparel, but their waists and skirts stay together in the back and their sleeves are adapted to the reaching down of books.

The Education building is preening itself complacently over being “it” again this week and hearing once more some good grammar, while everywhere the printed page is sure of respectful attention, even the advertising circular. We feel awed by the presence of the librarians when they are running loose, just as we are when they are behind the desk and we are asking them if some book is “in,” and we fancy we are being mentally classified by what we probably know, and as we turn away we twist around to see if they have pasted a label on our backs.

Impressions of the St Louis Conference

L. Stanley Jast, delegate from L. A. U. K.

Since leaving St Louis I have been so busy collecting new impressions of new places, seeing libraries by day, and lying awake for miles in the American sleeping car every night, that I have hardly been able to set in order my impressions of the St Louis congress. That the congress was a thorough success, from whatever point of view regarded, must be the one fundamental impression of everyone who had the privilege of attending it. Personally, I have peculiar cause for satisfaction, in that the important proposal which I had the pleasure of submitting from my own association, for an Anglo-American code of cataloging rules, was so cordially received by the A. L. A. If what one may term the international fruitage of the conference (other than the mental understanding and good will which makes any international congress worth while), should consist in nothing more than this common code between the two great

branches of the English-speaking peoples, a memorable service will have been rendered to science, and the seed of further coöperation, if not of a world code of cataloging rules, will have been sown. But the more grandiose idea of an international library federation was born at St Louis. Exactly what such a federation would do in the way of practical work need not concern us at this moment—the idea is a good one—and I feel sure that the Library association of the United Kingdom will be glad to further any such effort to bring into closer relation the librarians of the world.

The papers read at the meeting struck me as reaching a high level of excellence (and I desire it to be understood, in saying this, I don't exclude even my own contribution). There was a remarkable absence of heaviness and long-windedness throughout; everybody was bright and to the point. In spite of this fact the members of the A. L. A. deserve all possible credit for the really splendid audiences which assembled at every meeting and stayed to the end of each day's proceedings, as though the luxuries of the Inside inn and the wonders of the Fair were not. What must, too, have impressed every delegate was the unflinching tact and charm of the chair, and the wonderful way in which Dr Putnam so manipulated a long program that everything was got in and in its appropriate place.

Altogether, I look back on the St Louis meeting as having been—to use I believe the correct American expression—the time of my life. I have obtained from it much information and many fresh suggestions, and I return to the old country with a warm admiration for the magnificent achievements of America in the library field, and cherishing the hope that I have not attended my last meeting of the A. L. A.

The *Public library quarterly*, issued by the Public library of Kansas City, Mo., contains a catalog of the Nelson gallery of art housed in the library building, and also the annual report of the library.

Library Work With Schools

Plans outlined by the Library commission of Indiana

Effect public and traveling library organization and give library training. These are essential before work with schools can be undertaken.

(Libraries must first be established and efficiently administered by a librarian having some knowledge of modern library methods. This is necessary for the success of the plan.)

1 Create a healthy public sentiment favoring library work with schools in order that the school study, rendered more effective and vital by the work in the library, may make for better morality, greatly enrich life, enable one to follow a vocation to more advantage and establish higher social ideals.

(Addresses before club members, school trustees, superintendents, and teachers, librarians and members of library boards recommended.)

2 Conduct library institutes to discuss library interests. Bring into discussion parents, club members, superintendents of schools, teachers, librarians and library boards.

(A round table for librarians should form part of each institute program.)

3 Publish selected and annotated lists of books suitable for school grades; bird calendar, author bulletin, reading lists and a monthly library bulletin.

4 Introduce brief courses of lectures on Library work with schools into the several normal schools' curricula.

(The Indiana state normal school approves this plan and it is probable that the other normal schools of the state will endorse it also.)

5 Confer with teachers in various parts of the state as to the best reference work and selection of best children's books for particular grades and high school's.

6 Instruct librarians in training schools for librarians. The following lectures were given at the Indiana library commission's training school in 1904:

1) History of the coöperation be-

tween libraries and schools, beginning in 1876.

2) Work done by typical libraries.

3) Work which may be done by even the small library with limited means and resources.

4) Coöperation with the library from the teacher's standpoint.

5) Children's reading. a) Reading habit formed between 11 and 16. b) Influence of teacher apparent. c) Guidance of pupils' reading.

6) Selection of books.

7) Reading lists.

8) Best plans for the story hour.

9) Picture bulletin making—illustrated.

10) Use of single pictures. a) Circulation of. b) To illustrate timely topics.

11) Classification and care of a miscellaneous collection of pictures.

12) Value of wall pictures and picture books.

13) Special catalog of children's books.

7 Encourage child study and psychology of children's reading in order that parents, teachers, and librarians may more intelligently coöperate in the selection of children's reading.

The Public library commission of Indiana has appointed Ida M. Mendenhall to take charge of the library work with schools. Miss Mendenhall graduated from Earlham college and the Indiana normal school and was for four years a teacher in the Indianapolis public schools. She spent some time in the Brookline (Mass.) public library, graduating from the Pratt institute school of library training in 1904 and served as instructor of library work with schools in the Indiana training school for librarians at Winona Lake in the summer of 1904.

After studying the library conditions of Indiana the organizer reported to the Commission that the work with schools as outlined above is the most important work to be performed in the library field. An attempt was made to introduce this subject in the commission's school for librarians held in 1902.

Some work was done in the school for librarians of 1903 when Prof. Howard Sandison gave five lectures upon psychology for librarians and Harriet H. Stanley, school reference librarian of the Brookline (Mass.) public library, delivered six lectures upon Reference work with schools, supplemented by papers from Ella Saltmarsh, children's librarian, Indianapolis public library, upon Children's work, and an address by Nellie Fatout, librarian at Elwood.

Having met with little encouragement in previous efforts to interest the normal schools of the state in library lecture courses, the commission has become convinced that before library work with schools can be introduced, the need of it must be realized. The Library commission has therefore decided to centralize and foster the library work with schools in Indiana and has outlined the above plans in which it asks for your coöperation.

French Novels

[In French]

The following is a list of French novels, prepared by the City library of Springfield, Mass.:

Balzac, H. de. Eugénie Grandet.
 Bourget, P. Complications sentimentales.
 Cherbuliez, V. Le roman d'une honnête femme.
 Coppée, F. Les vrais riches.
 Daudet, A. Le nabab.
 Le petit chose.
 Dudevant, A. L. A. D. Les maîtres sonneurs.
 La mare au diable.
 Durand, A. M. C. H. La Fille de Dosia.
 Enault, L. Chien du capitaine.
 Feuillet, O. Le roman d'un jeune homme pauvre.
 France, A. Le crime de Sylvestre Bonnard.
 Gautier, T. Spirite.
 Malot, H. Sans famille.
 Maupassant, G. de. Pierre et Jean.
 Mérimée, P. Colomba.
 Ohnet, G. Le maître de forges.
 Rod, E. Le ménage du Pasteur Naudie.
 Sandeau, J. Catherine.
 Theuriot, A. Dorine.
 Viaud, L. M. J. Pêcheur d'islande.
 Zola, E. La débacle.
 Le rêve.

The Public library of Evanston, Ill., has issued a list of books on music and musicians. Small libraries will find this list helpful.

The Expansive Classification

The following circular has been sent out and may interest those who are using the Expansive classification and may not have seen the circular heretofore.

C. A. Cutter's Expansive classification.

The following statement indicates the present condition of the Expansive classification. Should any subscriber have failed to receive the parts already printed, they may be obtained free of charge by addressing me. Other parts will be sent free as soon as printed.

W. P. CUTTER.

Forbes library, Northampton, Mass.

Part 1, complete. First six classifications, with title and index. 160 pages.

Part 2, unfinished. Seventh classification. 582 pages printed:

Local list, 35 pp.

Philosophy, 15 pp.

Alternative for psychology and ethics, 17 pp.

Religion, 67 pp.

History, 68 pp.

Social sciences, 110 pp.

Medicine, 45 pp.

Recreative arts, 26 pp.

Expressive arts, 16 pp.

Fine arts, 40 pp.

Language, literature and the book arts, 143 pp.

Additions and alterations, 10 pp.

Each of these has an index, except the Expressive arts, which is now in preparation, and the Alternative for psychology and ethics.

Not yet printed:

Natural sciences

Useful arts

General index

The work may be ordered of W. P. Cutter, Forbes library, Northampton, Mass., or of the Library Bureau, 530 Atlantic av., Boston, Mass.

Price, in sheets, \$5. This includes the sheets yet unprinted, post-paid, and the revised reprint or second edition of some pages of Part 1, which will be issued when Part 2 is finished.

Prices of separate portions, unbound:

Part 1., Relig., Hist., Med., Fine arts, Local list, 80 cents each.

Philos., Recreative arts, Expressive arts, 50 cents each.

Social sciences, \$1. Literature, etc., \$1.25.

To libraries actually classifying by this system a second copy will be supplied gratis, when the work is finished.

A complete set of the Book arts should consist of the following pages in the edition mentioned, pp. 1-32, 2d ed; 33-38, 38a; 39 and 40, 2d ed; 41 and 42, 3d ed; 43 and 44, 2d ed; 44a, 2d ed; 45 and 46; 2d ed; 47-76, 76a-76d, 77-100, 101, 101a, 102-143. This last page is numbered 15 in sheet 10.

The following are in press:

W Art, pages 33-40 (Index)

LR Astronomy

The following portions are in manuscript, and will be printed as fast as possible:

LB Mathematics

RF-Rj Agriculture

The following are in course of preparation:

LH Physics

N Botany

O Zoology

RV-Rz Domestic science

U Protective arts

The Model Library and the Fire

The collection of books in the Missouri building at the World's Fair at St Louis was one of the main points of interest to many persons during the past summer, but particularly to librarians. Housed in a well-lighted room, supplied with every appliance that could lend efficiency to their use, with the latest and best in the way of equipment and furniture, it was a goodly sight to look upon and there was much reason for calling it a model library.

It will be a painful shock, therefore, to many to learn that in the recent fire which consumed the Missouri building, the books, records, fittings and furniture had to be snatched as it were from the flames and suffered considerable loss in rough handling as they were thrown out into a place of safety from the fire. The room in which they had been was not reached by the flames after all, but it was so deluged with water and smoke as to have ruined the library if the latter had not been removed. The St Louis public library carried the in-

surance which, while not sufficient to cover all the loss incurred, supplies some remuneration.

The books were stored in the Ohio building after the fire, and will be put in place in the Public library after adjustment is made by the insurance company.

Library Extension in Lansing, Mich.

It may be interesting to note that recently we began the branch library experiment for our city. We now expect to soon add two more of these reading rooms and delivery stations combined to our one. We have been extremely economical in our experiment, using a convenient school room's voluntary service for taking charge of the room, and donated periodicals. As it is in a factory district we have been greatly pleased at the steady increase in patrons, from nine to forty in six evenings. As yet our hours are from seven to nine o'clock only, on Friday and Saturday nights.

I noticed in a recent PUBLIC LIBRARIES that the Trenton (Del.) library proposes to grant its adult patrons the privilege of taking out a reasonable number of books. I am especially interested in that plan, because last fall we changed our rules, so that: Each borrower is entitled to one book of fiction and as many of nonfiction as he desires, subject to the discretion of the librarian. It has worked very satisfactorily with us. I have often wondered if other libraries had not reached the same standpoint. I should like to ask PUBLIC LIBRARIES for results in cases where it has been tried. I am sure that many others besides myself will be glad to know of it.

GERTRUDE P. HUMPHREY, Lib'n.

The Western Massachusetts library club has issued a pamphlet list of the current year's best books for small libraries to buy. The list was prepared by Abbie T. Montague, librarian at Sunderland, Mass., and secretary of the Library club.

Full Names of Authors

[From Catalog division, Library of congress]

Anonym

Livingstone, Cora Luetta, 1874—. is the author of *Glimpses of pioneer life for little folks*.

Full names

- Alchin, Carrie Adelaide**. Ear training for teacher and pupil.
- Anderson, Charles Bernhard**, 1856—. *Anderson's distance tables*.
- Arthur, William**, 1860—. *The building estimator*.
- Baldwin, George Partridge**, 1863—. *The Black Hills illustrated*.
- Bosqui, Francis Lawrence**, 1868—. *Practical notes on the cyanide process*.
- Burdick, Arthur Jerome**, 1858—. *The mystic mid-region, the deserts of the Southwest*.
- Butler, James Glentworth**, 1821—. *Vital truths respecting God and man*.
- Clymer, Reuben Swinburne**, 1878—. *Vaccination brought home to you*.
- Craig, Mrs Ellen Frances**, 1845—. *The wonderful spring*.
- Currier, Mary Mehetabel**, 1869—. *A summer in New Hampshire*.
- Davenport, Willard Goss**, 1843—. *The bible and the church*.
- Davis, Charles Edward**, 1853—. *Paul Leonard's sacrifice*.
- Davis, Edmund Walstein**, 1853—. *Salmon-fishing on the grand Cascapedia*.
- Eley, Peter Harden**, 1876—. *An epoch in history*.
- Elliott, John Henry**, 1853—. *The brook in the pasture*.
- Evans, Granville Pearl**, 1862—. *Nearing the end*.
- Featherstun, Henry Walter**, 1849—. *The Christ of our novelists*.
- German, Rhodie Anna Wagnon**, 1862—. *Pulse of the advanced thought*.
- Goodspeed, Weston Arthur**. *The province and the states*.
- Gottschalk, Franklin Benjamin**, 1867—. *Practical electro therapeutics*.
- Greig, James Weir**, 1868. *The game of bowling on the green*.
- Hagen, Ole Erikson**, 1852—. *Tilpfields*.
- Hall, Milo Baldwin**, 1837—. *Brown's first lessons in language and grammar*.
- Hamlin, Arthur Sears**, 1876—. *Copyright cases*.
- Hans, Joseph Marion**, 1860—. *Euskal Jai; or, In quest of health and happiness*.
- Harper Henry Howard**, 1871—. *Book-lovers bibliomaniacs and book clubs*.
- Hartzell, Albert Ankeny**, 1863—. *Alicia*.
- Hathaway, Benjamin Adams**, 1852—. *What noted people say*.
- Hervey, George Washington**, 1846—. *Nebraska's resources illustrated*.
- Hill, Bruce Vickroy**, 1872—. *Properties of matter and heat*.
- Holland, Rupert Sargent**, 1878—, and **Jenks, Robert Darrah**, 1875—. *The citizen's handbook*.
- Hume, Harold Hardrada**, 1875—. *Citrus fruits and their culture*.
- Ivey, George Franks**, 1870—. *Carding and spinning*.
- Janeway, Theodore Caldwell**, 1872—. *The clinical study of blood-pressure*.
- Kennedy, William Dames**, 1844—. *Pythian history*.
- Kimball, Gustavus Sylvester**, 1860—. *Modern business speller*.
- Lagen, Mary Julia**, 1856—, and **Ryland, Cally Thomas**, 1871—. *Daphne and her lad*.
- Lawyer, James Patterson, jr**, 1875—. *History of Ohio*.
- Logan, Preston Breckinridge**, 1870—. *Interesting facts concerning the Associate, Associate reformed and United Presbyterian churches in America*.
- Madison, Andrew William**, 1840—. *Is the world in need of a new revelation?*
- Merison, Francis Richmond**, 1872—. *Banking publicity*.
- Osborn, Albert Sherman**, 1858—. *Typewriting expert testimony*.
- Ray, Fabius Maximus**, 1837—. *Translations, imitations, and a few originals*.
- Reed, Chester Albert**, 1876—. *North American birds' eggs*.
- Richards, John**, 1834—. *An engineering student's notes*.
- Rogers, Warren Osgood**, 1870—, and **Seaton, George Ambrose**, 1878—. *Kinks and recipes for engineers*.
- Salmonsens, Morris**, 1843—. *We mortals*.
- Sampson, Holden Edward**, 1859—. *The life of the Lord Jesus Christ*.
- Senter, John Henry**, 1848—. *Was Shakespeare a lawyer?*
- Simpson, Joseph Bernard**, 1846—. *Hamiltonism vs Jeffersonism*.
- Spangler, Edward Webster**, 1846—. *My little war experience*.
- Stoddard, Dwight Lincoln**, 1864—. *Steel square pocket book*.
- Whitcomb, Ida Prentice**, 1843—. *Heroes of history*.
- Whittaker, William Henry**, 1853—. *Whittaker's annotated code of civil procedure of Ohio*.
- Willard, Mary Frances**, 1867—. ed. of *Tennyson's Idyls of the king*.
- Wilson, George Washington**, 1853—. *Methodist theology vs Methodist theologians*.

Vicious books are easily obtained by any child. We must counteract the influence of such by cultivating a taste for better things. The children of today are the citizens of tomorrow and they will act then as the ideas and ideals gathered now dictate.

Partial List of Libraries Having Books for the Blind

- California—San Francisco public library.
 Connecticut—Public library, Hartford.
 District of Columbia—Library of congress, Washington, D. C.
 Georgia—Carnegie library of Atlanta.
 Illinois—Public library, Chicago.
 Maryland—Enoch Pratt free library, Baltimore.
 Massachusetts—Public library, Boston.
 Public library, Fitchburg.
 Free public library, Lynn.
 Free library, Newton (?)
 Public library, Somerville.
 Free public library, Worcester.
 Michigan—Public library, Detroit.
 Public library, Grand Rapids.
 Minnesota—Public library, Minneapolis.
 Missouri—Public library, Kansas City.
 Free public library, St Joseph.
 New Jersey—Free public library, Jersey City.
 Free public library, Newark.
 Dennis library, Newton (?)
 New York—New York state library, Albany.
 New York public library, New York City.
 Public library, Niagara Falls.
 Brooklyn public library.
 Public library, Buffalo.
 Ohio—Public library of Cincinnati.
 Public library, Cleveland.
 Public library, Dayton.
 Pennsylvania—Free library of Philadelphia.
 Rhode Island—Public library, Providence.
 Utah—Utah university, Ogden.
 Free public library, Salt Lake City.
 Wisconsin—Free public library, Madison.
 Public library, Milwaukee.

Books of Interest to Librarians

May I have a few lines in which to "advertise" three books which richly deserve all that can be said for them? Any library that gets them will bless us for calling attention to them. First: Miss Edith Granger's Index to poetry and recitations, published by McClurg. A large book at \$5, which at that price must sell very largely to pay the expense of publication, let alone any reimbursement to the author for her enormous labor. It ought to be in every library, and having it will lead naturally to having some of the excellent collections it indexes. It is invaluable for work with schools, especially for the appendices with lists of pieces arranged under names of special occa-

sions like Arbor day, St Valentine's, Christmas, etc.

Second: Miss Hewins' Books for boys and girls—new edition. At 10* cents a copy libraries everywhere should sell many of these to parents and teachers, and in so doing greatly advance good and sane ideas about young people's reading. Miss Hewins simply has a genius for this work. Sold by the A. L. A. publishing board, Boston.

Third: President Welling's addresses and other papers, an invaluable book on critical subjects in American history. At first privately printed, I succeeded in securing a very limited edition for libraries, about 50 copies of which remain, after which none can be had. Sold by the Riverside Press, Cambridge, at \$1.50, "strictly net."

Perhaps it is strange for straight advertising to be done in the correspondence columns; but "if this be treason, make the most of it!" and when I feel about some other books as I do about these three, I'll risk my neck again.

W. I. FLETCHER.

Amherst college, Nov. 4, 1904.

By the will of John William Pease the valuable collection of drawings, engravings, tools, books, etc., known as the Bewick collection, came into the possession of the Public library of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, England. The collection is almost invaluable, illustrating as it does the full scope of the powers of Thomas and John Bewick and of several pupils, in copper-plate, pencil drawings, water colors, and many wood blocks. Basil Anderton, B. A., librarian of Newcastle, and W. H. Gibson, branch librarian, have prepared a catalog of the collection, arranged chronologically, listing also biographies, criticisms and catalogs. Ten full-page illustrations and a number of smaller beautiful reproductions are given. The catalog offers a most interesting study, being copiously annotated and evaluating many of the entries.

*Miss Hewins' book is 15 cents, but \$10 per hundred. Librarians should buy it by the hundred and sell it at cost to their patrons (or else give it away).

The Department of archives and history of the state of Alabama has issued a check-list of newspapers and periodicals in that department. The list was compiled by the director, Thomas M. Owen, and is issued as Bulletin no. 3.

The Free public library of Trenton, N. J., has issued a class catalog of its non-fiction books, with an author index. A note in the catalog states that the number of non-fiction works which may be drawn by one person is determined by the needs of the reader, and that special privileges will be granted on application. This is worthy of imitation.

In addition to the recent additions to the St Louis public library the *Monthly bulletin* of that library for November contains a list on America in history and travels, an address by Mrs Elmen-dorf on Great literature and children, which discusses good books for children, a list of books for a Sunday-school library and a list of the 12 best books for a young man by Prof. Dillard of Tulane university.

Charles H. Caffin, one of America's leading art critics, has prepared for the 1905 *St Nicholas* a series of articles on How to study pictures, in which he adopts the plan of contrasting, in each article, the work of some great artist with that of another equally great master—showing a single picture painted by each, and pointing out the likenesses and differences between the two pictures and the methods of the two painters. Many other notable contributors and contributions will add to the value and interest of *St Nicholas* during 1905.

A most interesting volume is the recent critical study of the English translations of Corneille and Racine as presented on the English stage. It covers the period from the middle of the seventeenth century through the last quarter of the eighteenth century and throughout shows a tremendous amount of careful research and comparison. The result is a very interesting presentation of an influence on English thought that is not

generally comprehended.

The author is Dorothea Frances Canfield, a daughter of Dr J. H. Canfield of Columbia university library, who evidently shares her father's delightfully entertaining way of telling even the most prosaic things, and who in the present instance has presented a charming study of very interesting matter.

The Wisconsin Free library commission has issued a check-list of the journals and public documents of Wisconsin.

The preface to the list states that its primary purpose is to serve as a basis for collecting or for making a permanent record of collections. No attempt at bibliographical details has been made beyond what was necessary to distinguish the volumes, and the list includes the volumes which have appeared at some time in the bound sets of public documents. Publications of societies such as agricultural are not included, but will appear in special lists along those lines.

The Wisconsin library commission has been authorized by law to give what help it can, variously stated, to the public and other libraries of that state, to collect and organize their sets of state documents, and in this check list a most valuable aid has been provided.

The compilation of the check-list was carried out under the direct supervision of Adelaide R. Hasse of the New York public library.

A. L. A. Souvenir Pins of 1904

St Louis, Nov. 17, 1904.

Members of the A. L. A. who were not present at the St Louis meeting may be glad to know that there are still some of the souvenir pins left, which may be had for 75 cents apiece—by registered mail 85 cents apiece. Pins will be mailed at receiver's risk, if registration is not desired. Address

F. M. CRUNDEN, Lib'n.

Library Schools

Drexel institute

The alumnae of the school entertained the students on Wednesday evening, November 16. The feature of the evening was a "living book" library. Each graduate represented a book and was placed in a fixed location stack. The students were then requested to call for books by their numbers. When they had guessed the name of a book, it was returned and another was drawn in its place. In this way the new students had opportunity to meet the graduates informally. A sociable and very pleasant evening was spent by all.

Ruth Kidder, '04, has been appointed assistant organizer in the Fletcher free library, Burlington, Vt.

Grace Lindale, '04, has been substituting in the library of Bryn Mawr college.

Kathrine H. McAlarney, '02, who has been for the past two years an assistant in the Free library of Philadelphia, is taking the course in the Carnegie school for the training of children's librarians.

Alvena M. Surdam, '02, was married to James H. Jennings on October 4.

Frances Hobart, '04, has been appointed secretary of the Vermont state library commission.

Eliza J. Clevenger, '04, will be evening assistant in the Drexel institute library during the coming year.

ALICE B. KROEGER.

University of Illinois

The following constitutes a somewhat incomplete list of positions to which members of last year's class at the Illinois state library school have been appointed:

Mary M. Bevans, organizer in Wisconsin, under the direction of the Wisconsin free library commission.

Mary J. Booth, librarian, Eastern Illinois normal school, Charleston.

Alice B. Coy, catalog department, Cincinnati public library.

Mabel Davison, assistant, Joliet (Ill.) public library.

Mrs Gertrude Fox Hess, catalog and reference assistant, Ohio state library.

Nellie G. Hewitt, librarian, Ferry hall, Lake Forest, Ill.

Edna Hopkins, catalog department Cincinnati public library.

Charlotte M. Jackson, assistant cataloger, Bryn Mawr college library, Bryn Mawr, Pa.

Leila P. King, organizer, Clinton (Iowa) public library.

Isabella J. McCulloch, catalog department, University of Wisconsin, Madison.

Mabel Perry, assistant cataloger, University of Michigan library, Ann Arbor.

Inez C. Pierce, assistant librarian, Eastern Illinois normal school, Charleston.

Bertha E. Royce, assistant in reference department, University of Illinois, Urbana.

Belle Sweet, librarian, Clinton (Iowa) public library.

Anna D. White, loan desk assistant, University of Illinois library, Urbana.

Alice L. Wing, general library assistant, Spokane (Wash.) public library.

Ida F. Wright, assistant, Evanston (Ill.) public library

FRANCES SIMPSON.

The Alumni association of the library school held a business meeting at St Louis, October 20, for regular business and election of officers, as follows: President, Frances Simpson; vice-presidents, W. O. Waters and Lilian Arnold; secretary and treasurer, Agnes Cole; executive board, Reneé Stern, Elizabeth Montross, Margaret Dunbar. Dinner was served at the Inside Inn with 35 present.

A reporter of the New York state library school in speaking of the lectures given there has this to say in the Albany *Argos*:

Of special interest to library students was the visit of Dr Wolfstieg of Berlin, librarian of the Prussian parliamentary library, and director of a library school for women. This school began three years ago with 8 students, the following year it had 12, and now it has 18 students. Applicants must be between 20 and 30 years of age, the latter limit being set because of provisions for state pensions after a certain length of service. The educational requirements are about equal to our high school course. Applicants must be able to read and write both English and French.

Pratt institute

In addition to the positions reported previously as taken by the class of 1904, the following permanent appointments have been made:

Edith Veronique Bethune, cataloger, McGill university library, Montreal; Mrs Harriet Price Sawyer, librarian, New Platz state normal school, N. Y.; Clara Bragg, cataloger, Wyoming historical and genealogical society library, Wilkesbarre Pa.; Ethel Fenton Sayre, indexer and reference librarian, *Brooklyn Eagle*.

The marriage of Helen Lancaster Plummer, '97, and lately of the Library of congress, to Philip S. Goulding of Washington, took place September 7 in Baltimore.

The school opened on Monday, September 19, at 9 a. m., for the preliminary two weeks of practical work. Practice in the library will be furnished throughout the first two terms to a greater extent than heretofore, in order to avoid clogging the library wheels with too many assistants in the third term, and to familiarize the students earlier with various matters of routine. The cataloging will occupy almost twice as much time in the first term as hitherto, so as to enable the class to do practical cataloging in the winter and spring when book accessions are most numerous.

The only change in the faculty of the school has been the appointment of Minnie L. Benham, '04, as school secretary and reviser.

MARY W. PLUMMER, Director.

Western Reserve university

Of the 14 students taking the full course in the school, six are college graduates, of the following colleges: Hiram, Smith, Wells, University of Minnesota, and Adelbert college, W. R. U., two. Five have had some college training, varying in amount from a summer course to three years, one has had a seminary, and two a high-school education. Four have had previous library training, and eight library experience, two of these as librarians. Two are from Iowa, one from

South Dakota, nine from Ohio, one from Minnesota, and one from Wisconsin.

Of the 15 special students taking the partial courses, four are college graduates, and four have had some college training; while all have had library experience.

Chautauqua library school

The six weeks' course of the Chautauqua library school, held last summer, proved unusually successful. The course was given, as usual, under the directorship of Melvil Dewey, with Miss Hazeltine as resident director, Miss Robbins, assistant director, and Mary L. Davis and Harriet L. Peck, instructors. The general course covered accession work, cataloging, classification, reference work and bibliography; with special lectures by Mr and Mrs Elmendorf, W. R. Eastman, A. L. Peck and Miss Ahern. The lectures dealt with business relations, book selection and ordering, buildings and fittings, library administration. A special course on the care and cataloging of maps was given by Miss Davis, and attendance at the lectures of Miss Shedlock—in the regular Chautauqua lecture course—was a requirement. The course was taken by 40 students, representing states ranging from Maine to Texas.

Wisconsin summer school

The tenth annual session of the Wisconsin summer school for library training was held in the Historical library building in Madison from June 13 to Aug. 5, 1904. For the elementary course of eight weeks, open to librarians in positions or under appointment to them, there was an attendance of 30, the register by states being as follows: Wisconsin 15, Illinois 9, California 1, Canada 1, Indiana 1, Minnesota 1, Montana 1, and Missouri 1. There was no tuition charged librarians of public libraries in Wisconsin, as the officers of the commission feel that this is the most economical and advantageous method of working with our librarians to raise the standard of librarianship in the state.

The following outline, with the number of lectures given to each subject,

will give some idea of the scope of the course, which is made as practical as possible: Cataloging, 26; reference and extension, 12; classification and book numbers, 13; administration, 6; book buying, including editions, 6; children's work, 5; binding, 6; loan department, 5; public documents, 6; accession department, 5; shelf department, 4; commission work, traveling libraries, use of pictures and librarianship, 8.

It is hard to estimate the results of such a school. The fact that it adds 15 to the number of Wisconsin librarians who are fairly well equipped for their work, and that these 15 will probably work with greater enthusiasm and greater knowledge, is sufficient guarantee of the usefulness of the work.

The director of the school was assisted by Julia E. Elliott, of the Marinette public library, who gave 16 lectures on accession, shelf, binding, and administration; Julia Hopkins, of the Madison public library, who had charge of the work in classification; Hannah Ellis, also of the Madison public library, who lectured three times on children's work. Five very practical lectures on public documents by J. I. Wyer, jr., of University of Nebraska library, were open to both elementary and supplementary classes.

The supplementary course was a decided success, and the attendance of 30 proves that there are many ambitious librarians in our state who are anxious to have thorough preparation for their work and to embrace every opportunity for progressive advancement. Students were allowed to enter for two, three, or four weeks, and the course was so arranged that they might devote a great deal of time to technical work or omit it altogether. There is no doubt that most librarians, whether of large or small libraries, need more time for study and for general reading than is allowed throughout the year with the pressure of work in the average library. Many of the librarians have not had the thorough general education which is essential for intelligent library work, and need something aside from technical work to fit

themselves for their positions. It was to this class and to the more progressive of the educated librarians that the supplementary course appealed. These students, with three exceptions, had previously taken the supplementary course in this school, and the others had attended regular library schools.

The 20 lectures on English literature by Prof. H. B. Lathrop, of the Wisconsin university, were altogether delightful and inspiring, and the bibliography lectures, aside from providing book lists and suggestions for building up special collections far into the future, awakened new interest among the librarians and suggested new lines for individual study. These bibliography lectures were on the following topics, and were all given by professors in the University of Wisconsin and by R. G. Thwaites, secretary of the State historical society: 1) Foundation works in European history, Prof. Dana C. Munro; 2) Greek and Latin literature for English readers, Dr Grant Showerman; 3) Ancient histories in the light of modern discoveries, Dr Grant Showerman; 4-5) The French novel, Prof. W. F. Giese; 6) Selection of books in economics, Prof. T. S. Adams; 7-8) Sources of English and American history; 9) Old Norse literature, Prof. Julius E. Olson; 10) Modern Scandinavian literature, Prof. Julius E. Olson.

Miss Plummer, of Pratt institute library school, gave five scholarly lectures on the History of libraries, four of which were illustrated with lantern slides. The lectures on History of books and printing were given by Henry E. Legler, secretary of the Wisconsin free library commission. Miss Stearns and Miss Ahern gave helpful talks on librarianship. The supplementary class also attended Mr Wyer's lectures on United States documents, following each lecture with some hours of practical work in the document department of the Historical library. The director of the school gave lectures for one week on technical work, including a review, with emphasis on improvements and new methods, also four lectures on editions.

Library Meetings

Chicago—The second meeting for the year was held Thursday, November 10, at the Chicago public library, the president, Miss Ahern, in the chair. The resignations of Miss Adams and Miss Collins were accepted. The following were elected members: Miss Congdon, Miss Goddard, Miss Hayward, Miss Hulce, Miss Patton, Miss Swenson, Mr Wolcott, Mr Leupp, Mr Kregel. The program of the evening consisted in a review of the St Louis conference in its various aspects. Mr Teal gave the general news of the convention, including the arrangements for the Portland meeting. The bibliographical features and the various plans proposed for co-operation were described by Mr Tolman. Mrs Perry spoke briefly of the social side and the entertainments by the local committee. The international aspects, both personal and impersonal, were given by Mr Andrews. The program was of interest not only to those who could not attend the convention but also to those who were present as giving a description from various view-points of one of the greatest of library conferences.

The second half of the evening consisted in a short general review of the library activities of the world. Mr Roden, Miss Dickinson, and Miss McIlvaine spoke of the articles in the Continental, English and American library periodicals for the month. At the close Mrs McGrew, chairman of the library committee of the Illinois federation of women's clubs, told of the library interests of the federation and of the prospects for a new library bill at the coming session of the Illinois state legislature. CHARLES H. BROWN, Sec.

Connecticut—The autumn meeting of the Connecticut library association was held November 9 at New London. At the morning session, called to order by the president, Jonathan Trumbull of the Otis library, Norwich, Walter Learned of New London, a trustee of the Public library, gave an address of welcome.

After the reports of the secretary and treasurer, the president reported

for the committee on Connecticut bibliography, appointed at a meeting earlier in the year, that the James Blackstone memorial library had begun the catalog cards, and that the Public library of Westerly, R. I., is collaborating with the committee. A resolution was passed discountenancing the removal of Mr and Mrs Hills from the Bridgeport public library.

A discussion on the distinction between reference and loan-books was opened by C. Belle Maltbie of Falls Village. She said that all possible information should be found in a reference room, which should provide for students and furnish the best editions of the standard books in every department of knowledge. Generally speaking, these books should not be taken from the library. Bound periodicals, when needed for information, nature-study books at certain times of year, and rare and costly volumes should not go out. In the discussion which followed, Prof. James referred to the large size of English reference collections in comparison to books for circulation, and suggested that well chosen reference books will answer the complaint often made as to the purchase of books of little value for public libraries. Willis K. Stetson advocated the temporary withdrawal from circulation of books needed for reference, and Mr Anderson of New York spoke of valuable collections of articles on special subjects which may be made by small libraries from magazines. The president suggested that the association might well pass a resolution compelling high school teachers to notify librarians of subjects which they give their pupils for study or reference.

Prof. James read a paper on Bibliography, which he defined as the science of book-description. He spoke of the grouping of manuscripts in families, the slight differences which determine their value, and the marks which distinguish the best. Bibliography gives students lists and criteria, and accurate book description is of great value. In old books, the author's name, the title, place,

date, print, pagination, and size are of the greatest importance, and all peculiarities of individual copies should be noted. Prof. James gave as an illustration a copy of Byron's English bards and Scotch reviewers, a spurious edition of which has a later water-mark in the paper than the date on the title-page. Many advances in the careful study of books have come since the development of what we may call the natural history method, the study of a book as a naturalist studies an animal.

George S. Godard of the State library reported the definite establishment of a central depository to which every state shall send all its publications, and afterwards gave an account of the meeting of the American library association at the St Louis exposition, which was chiefly notable for the number of foreign delegates present. He pronounced the library exhibit there ideal and the new catalog just issued by the American library association excellent.

The first paper of the afternoon was by Anna G. Rockwell of New Britain on Ruts and how to avoid them.

Miss Rockwell's paper will appear in full in PUBLIC LIBRARIES later.

William W. C. Carlton of Trinity college read a paper on English authors in Scandinavian languages. In the catalogs of Swedish and Danish booksellers, he has found translations of books by Conan Doyle and George Meredith, together with Henry Harland's Cardinal's snuff-box, Beatrice Harraden's Ships that pass in the night, and Alice Caldwell Hegan's Mrs Wiggs of the cabbage patch. He has also discovered books by Hocking, Hornung, Fergus Hume, W. W. Jacobs, Mary Johnston, Kipling, and Letters from a self-made merchant to his son, the advertisement of which says, A better gift for boys at confirmation, New Years and Christmas can not be found. Edna Lyall, Charles Major, Mark Twain, Lew Wallace, Mrs Humphry Ward, Kate Douglas Wiggin, Louisa Alcott, Mayne Reid and Margaret Sangster are known to Scandinavian readers, and a lower class of books, like Bertha Clay's, Gauber's and Nick

Carter's detective stories, is in demand.

The proportion of English authors translated into Swedish and Danish is much greater than of Scandinavian authors put into English, and some of the best, like Kielland and Jonas Lie, are comparatively unknown in this country. Some of the great authors, Gray, Carlyle, Scott, Longfellow, William Morris, owe a large debt to Scandinavian literature, and it should be more read in translations.

After a vote of thanks to all concerned, the meeting adjourned.

Long Island—The first meeting of the Long Island library club for the season 1904-1905 was held November 3 at the library of the Kings county medical society. An encouraging evidence that the club is alive and growing was a list of 37 names proposed for membership. Miss Hutchinson, chairman of the Institute committee of the club, reported that in so much as the New York state association had taken a step looking toward the assumption of the institute work of that association by the state, and had appointed a committee to consider the whole matter of the policy and control of institutes with power to act and also with power to add to their number, that the Long Island library club should be represented on this committee with a view to the future possibility of turning over the club's institute work to the state. The report was received and the recommendation carried.

The chief address of the afternoon was to have been made by Dr J. M. Winfield on Coöperation between medical and public libraries, but one of those accidents that are the nightmares of program makers had necessitated his withdrawal the afternoon before, and Albert Huntington, librarian of the Medical society library, kindly consented at the eleventh half-hour to fill the vacant place. Mr Huntington briefly traced medical literature from the Egyptian stone tablets of remotest antiquity down through Hippocrates and Galen to the current number of the *Index medicus*, and medical libraries from the great

collection of Pergamus, transferred to Alexandria and burned centuries later, through the monastic libraries of the middle ages, the university libraries of Europe, rich in mss. and relics of the past but deficient in modern literature, to the medical libraries of America which are the finest up-to date work-shops in the world. The first medical library in America, founded about the year 1765, was the library of the Pennsylvania hospital, which owed its establishment largely to Benjamin Franklin. Today there are nearly 250 medical libraries in the United States containing a total of about 1,500,000 medical books. These libraries may be grouped roughly into four classes: those supported by the government, federal, state, or municipal; those maintained by private corporations, medical societies, academies of medicine and the like, the largest and most important group; third, medical libraries maintained in connection with hospitals or medical schools (this, the original form of medical library, has been largely supplanted by the second class); and, fourth, medical libraries maintained as departments of public libraries. This class has found a useful field in small cities where there are too few members of the medical profession to maintain a separate library. These departments are, in most instances, under the fostering care of the local profession and, of course, the use of the books is somewhat restricted.

Now, what should be the relation of the public library to the three classes of medical libraries first mentioned? Medical literature is so extensive, there being over 1000 important medical journals, and so expensive (the average American medical book costing not far from \$2.75, periodical subscription ranging up to \$25 a year) that the public library can not buy what the profession needs; but practically all medical literature is available to the public library through coöperation with the National medical library of the surgeon-general's office at Washington. By means of the *Index medicus*, the index to periodical literature, and the index catalog of the National library, the

whole field is opened, and through the general loan privilege extended by the National library the resources of every public library may be greatly extended.

Mr Huntington closed with a plea that the branch system of the public libraries be used as distributing channels for the single large medical library of a community so that physicians might be able to consult needed books of reference without spending precious time traveling long distances to the central medical collection. This suggestion led to an animated discussion. The advisability of establishing professional departments in branch libraries was seriously questioned by Miss Haines and by Mr Briggs, the reference librarian of the Brooklyn public library, who cited the example of Harvard university library which had made over a large bequest of medical books to the library of the medical school in Boston. Mr Briggs felt that an incomplete collection would only breed dissatisfaction. Mr Hill and Miss Lord expressed themselves as feeling that public libraries could safely and usefully avail themselves of loan privileges from medical libraries, sending for specific books that might be needed by students in their locality. All agreed that the use of the books would have to be safeguarded.

Miss Lord told of the A. L. A. meeting at St Louis, which she said differed from former meetings in that, being at a great fair and at an enormous hotel, the 600 librarians were lost in the mass, it being hard to see old friends and almost impossible to make new, so that the informal sociability of other conferences was missed. Discussion, too, was lacking and there were no section meetings, no round tables. On the other hand, the conference was marked by certain qualities that more than made up for what was absent. There was an international stamp upon the meetings, a dignity and impressiveness about the sessions, a scholarly and elevated tone to the papers that made the meeting a notable one in the history of the American library association. The topics chosen were those of broad, scholarly, international

interest, details and technicalities being omitted from consideration. The real progress shown in bibliographic coöperation excited the keenest interest and the most enthusiasm. The notable results of the conference were the merging of the National association of state librarians with the American library association, the formation of the American bibliographical society with Mr Lane as its first president, and the vote to appoint a committee to consider the duty of affiliation between library and bibliographical associations of all countries.

Lida V. Thompson gave an account of library week at Lake Placid, which made those who had before congratulated themselves, because of the rainy weather, on their non-attendance, feel that they had missed a real pleasure and benefit in failing to hear the strong papers and interesting discussions on the vital question of the Function of the public library in democratic society.

The meeting closed with a vote of thanks to Mr Huntington for his effective help in time of need.

JOSEPHINE ADAMS RATHBONE, Sec.

Massachusetts—The fall meeting of the Western Massachusetts library club was held November 3 at the Congregational church in Colrain. Visitors were present from Westfield, Northampton, Adams, Springfield, Conway, Shelburne Falls, Holyoke, Amherst, Deerfield, Montague, North Adams, Rowe, Sunderland and Greenfield. The address of welcome was given by Arthur A. Smith, a trustee of the Colrain library. In the course of his talk he stated that Colrain was the first town in the country to raise a flag over a school-house. The remainder of the morning session was devoted to the consideration of the best books of the year. The discussion, which was not finished until the afternoon session, was led by Misses Medlicott, Farrar and Miller of the Public library of this city, Miss Hall of the Massachusetts agricultural college, Miss Ray of the Holyoke library, Miss Richmond of the library at Adams and W. Parker Cutter of the Forbes library of Northampton. The

principal address of the day was given by Rev. Margaret Barnard of Rowe on the subject *The library, the people's university*. She spoke of the advantages and disadvantages of a university education. It may tend toward narrowness, as when only the required amount of special study is pursued, but such an education makes one acquainted with books, at least in a measure, and it brings one in contact with noble men and women, but for a few dollars, or a few cents, all may be brought into this contact through the books which these people have written. In meeting writers we are often disappointed in them because of their peculiarities. We can come into contact with the choicest thoughts of Shakespeare, Milton and Tennyson through their writings, but had we known them we might have found Shakespeare at a tavern considering whether he had better leave to his wife his best or his second best bed; Milton requiring his daughters to read to him in a language which they did not understand and which he would not teach them, because one tongue was enough for a woman. We should, very likely, find Tennyson in a pessimistic mood, but we can thoroughly know the man through one who thoroughly knew him—James T. Fields. Lowell said that the training that a college gives a man is good, but that the training he gives himself is better, and he himself is an illustration of this idea, as, rather than to study he was given to browsing among books, from the reading of which he absorbed the education which made him what he was.

We must have better motives than mere amusement, would we gain an education through books. President Eliot says that 15 minutes' study per day will make the difference between an educated and an uneducated man. Young men ought to read books like those of Bryce and Fiske and the autobiography of Senator Hoar, in order to prepare themselves to use the ballot intelligently. A teacher should read the history of education, child study, books of Stanley Hall and others. We should read books of travel, so that our sympa-

thies may go out toward the whole world; books on art; books on nature, as even in the country we have been blind to its wonders. We should read what is worth our while—the great thoughts of the ages. Let us fill our libraries with as few cheap novels as possible, but instead of them, with good fiction, with such works as those of Hawthorne and Eliot; with such novels as *Les Misérables*, which will inspire and uplift; also with biographies, with the accounts of the real actions of real men; with the histories of great countries which went through great struggles for freedom.

There were brief discussions of the questions of printed catalogs and of the dispensing with the accession book. W. Parker Cutter, who visited the St Louis exposition, told of what he saw there of interest to librarians; of books, pictures, maps, music, card catalogs, the illustration of the distribution of Library of congress cards, and of bookbinding.

W. I. Fletcher of Amherst college gave a report of the meetings of the American library association. He called them a great success, much greater than those held under similar conditions at Chicago 11 years ago. He was led by a discussion at the conference to propose the following suggestion, which the club voted to send for the consideration of the state club at their meeting at Amesbury:

Believing that the time is ripe for a forward movement in library coöperation in Massachusetts, the Western Massachusetts library club suggests to the Massachusetts library club, as representative of the library interests of the whole state, the appointment of a committee to consider methods of coöperation to be recommended to the State library commission.

One desired end is that the state commission shall adopt some system by which the libraries may through the commission purchase the principal new books coöperatively, in sheets, and have them suitably bound for library use at a fair cost.

Any action of the Massachusetts library club in this matter should include steps to secure any needed legislation

to qualify the commission to do this work; also some plan for the securing of the end sought, otherwise, if it proves impossible to obtain it through the commission.

ABBIE T. MONTAGUE, Sec.

Minnesota—The twelfth annual meeting of the Minnesota library association was held at the Mankato public library October 27–28. There were 27 librarians, 10 trustees, and one publisher in attendance. The first session was held in the children's room of the library on Thursday afternoon. The association was welcomed by C. E. Wise, president of the Mankato library board. Miss Van Buren, librarian, Owatonna public library, read a paper on Reference work in the small library. Miss Van Buren's paper was entirely practical, giving suggestions as to the most indispensable reference books for the library of limited means to own, and telling how to make the most of small resources. The plan of making town libraries free to the surrounding country was presented by Miss Baldwin, librarian Minnesota state library commission, and reports were given from Stillwater and Owatonna, where the plan has been inaugurated. In each of these places, the county commissioners have appropriated \$300 a year toward the support of the central library, in return for which the library is made free to all residents of the county. The plan has been in operation in Steele county (Owatonna public library) for nearly a year with very successful results. Traveling libraries, loaned by the State library commission, have been located at outlying points, and the entire circulation outside the city has been about 1300. At Stillwater, where the plan was only begun in September, there are already 66 borrowers from outside the city, and traveling libraries have been sent to two small country villages. A paper by Mrs A. R. Kitts of Fergus Falls, on Reading for children, was read by Miss Farr of the Mankato normal school library. The paper was rather unusual in its point of

view, and provoked a very spirited discussion, led by Mrs Alice Lamb, Litchfield, and Miss Farr, Mankota.

The evening session opened with the report of the committee on State documents, given by E. A. Nelson, state librarian. Mr Nelson gave a most carefully prepared report, containing the draft of a bill placing the distribution of state documents under the control of the state librarian, and providing for their distribution to a list of libraries to be approved by the State library commission. The report was accepted and the committee continued as a Legislative committee to urge the passage of the bill. After a short report of the A. L. A. meeting at St Louis, by Mrs F. C. Conner, Austin, a reception, given by the Mankato library board, was held in the beautiful Carnegie building.

The Friday morning session was devoted to the interests of trustees, the discussion being on the practical problem of how to conduct a public library on \$1000 a year. Over 20 small towns in Minnesota, which have recently been provided with Carnegie buildings, are now facing this problem. C. K. Bennett, trustee Owatonna public library, gave a most excellent paper on The librarian: qualifications, duties and salary. Prof. J. J. Dow of Faribault gave a very practical talk on the selection of books. For a library having a book fund of \$250 or \$300 annually, he recommended that \$50 should be spent for periodicals, from \$50 to \$100 for reference books and \$200 for circulation books. He advocated a good percentage of the best fiction, and thought that the selection should be in the hands of a good book committee, with lists to be submitted by the librarian. H. W. Wilson, Minneapolis, gave some very valuable practical suggestions on the buying of books, touching upon prices and discounts, editions and dealers. Miss Cloud, Minneapolis public library, told of their experience with renting collections of popular books and the discussion showed that this plan might also be adopted in small libraries. E. J. Stearns of Hutchinson

gave a paper on The building: its care, heating and lighting, and hours of opening. His estimate, based on the experience of the Hutchinson public library, showed that the actual cost of caring for a \$10,000 or \$12,000 building would be about \$400 a year. The papers were all followed by questions and interchange of experience which brought out many interesting facts and important suggestions. The general consensus of the meeting was that the best way to conduct a library on \$1000 a year was to raise more money, as this sum is not sufficient to properly maintain a building, provide for the books, and pay the librarian. Reports showed that only two or three of the small libraries were now receiving their full limit of taxation and it was urged that efforts should be made to obtain the full amount authorized by the state law.

Resolutions were adopted thanking the members of the Mankato library board for the delightful entertainment provided for the association, and the city for its cordial hospitality; recommending the passage of the bill proposed by Mr Nelson for the distribution of state documents, commending the work of the State library commission, and urging that a permanent appropriation of \$10,000 annually should be provided for its support; and also recommending the passage by Congress of the Lodge bill relating to reduced postage on library books.

The election of the following officers closed the business sessions of the meeting: President, Gratia A. Countryman, Public library, Minneapolis; secretary, Lydia M. Poirier, Public library, Duluth; treasurer, Alice N. Farr, State normal school, Mankato.

The perfect Indian summer weather had evidently been arranged for by the Mankato library board, as well as the delightful drive about Mankato and its beautiful natural park. In the evening a public lecture by Dr Richard Burton of Boston, formerly of the Minnesota state university, on Literature and librarians, was attended by a large and appreciative audience.

Foreign Notes

George E. Roebuck and Wm. Benson Thorne have written a Primer of library practice for [English] junior assistants (Putnam). The chapter on Library extension work will perhaps interest American librarians and assistants the most. Those who attended the St Louis conference will remember Mr Jast's address on that subject, in which he described the efforts of English librarians to interest the public in books, through lectures, short talks and library readings.

The introductory chapter of the Primer is historical, others deal with Organization, Classification and cataloging, Methodology, the Library assistant himself. At the end of the volume there is a list of references, rather indifferently made. That the author of Books in manuscript should be called Duff instead of Madan is unfortunate. Though conditions in this country are different from those prevailing in England, the library student will find it worth his while to make acquaintance with the book. The value of comparative studies can not be insisted on too often.

Mr Roebuck has contributed a short article on Newsrooms to the October number of the *Library assistant*. He points out that while it may be true that most workingmen prefer to read their papers at home, the existence of public newsrooms tends to counteract the danger of "one-paper ideas" of state policy and general matters. Why F. J. P. Burgoyne should write (in the July number) on the Origin of movable types, is not clear. He is apparently unfamiliar with recent researches regarding the invention of printing; he states without much hesitation, that "Coster published several editions of the Speculum humanae salvationis," but is not sure whether "Gutenberg" printed the so-called Mazarin bible or not.

The Proceedings of the twenty seventh annual meeting of the Library association (Great Britain) in Newcastle-upon-Tyne, last September are printed in the October number of the *Library association record*. This number contains,

however, only one of the papers read before the association; the other papers will presumably be printed, according to custom, in future numbers. Readers who already now may wish to follow intelligently the discussions printed in the proceedings may, however, be referred to W. E. Doubleday's excellent summary in the October number of the *Library*. It is particularly to be regretted that the interim report of the committee on Public education and public libraries, which was appointed last year, is not printed in full. John Cotton Dana, who was present at the meeting, took part in the discussion on annotation and told what is being done in this country. He said "he had been a strong advocate of the evaluation of books by the librarian. As a matter of fact they were all literary censors, and of the strongest kind. . . . Public library work would soon exceed their wildest dreams. The library of a million volumes would be the rule [! ?] rather than the exception in the course of a few years." Of particular interest to us is the report of the committee on Cataloging rules, in view of the proposed common code for English and American libraries. Among the most significant statements made during the discussion of the report perhaps was that of T. W. Lyster of the National library of Ireland, who said that "the business of the framer of cataloging rules was to produce the best ideal code for great libraries, for the oceans of books"; that "a catalog was the creation of the cataloger; it should embody the results of research; the cataloger should not divest himself of responsibility for his headings," and that "with regard to our catalog code, it was most important to put away from us prepossessions due to our being committed by precedent in our own work."

Those who are interested in the humors of our profession will find quoted in the October *Library world* some remarkably unintelligent utterances on the function of the librarian, from a couple of Newcastle newspapers.

A. G. S. J.

News from the Field

East

The local branch of D. A. R. in Auburn, Me., have held a very interesting exhibition at the Public library, of pictures of the lake district in England. Large crowds visited the exhibit.

The new library building of Marlboro, Mass., was opened for inspection, and dedicated to the use of the public on October 21. Nearly 3500 visitors were in the building during the day and evening.

Delucena L. Bingham, librarian of Manchester, Mass., celebrated his ninetyeth birthday November 7. He is probably the oldest acting librarian in the country, and has served his library as librarian and trustee for 20 years.

The board of directors of the Public library of Worcester, Mass., at their October meeting passed resolutions expressing their high regard of the late Senator George F. Hoar who was interested all his life in the welfare of the library and to whom the library is greatly indebted.

Harvard university library has received the Prof. Conrad von Maurer collection of books on Scandinavian literature and German history, which was presented to it by Prof. A. C. Coolidge about a year ago. The collection comprises 7450 books and 3000 pamphlets, and is the largest single gift ever received by the library. Owing to the lack of room at Gore hall the books are being stored in the basement of Robinson hall, where the work of classifying and cataloging them is being carried on.

Central Atlantic

Edmund L. Pearson, N. Y. '04, has been appointed reference librarian at the Public library of the District of Columbia, Washington, D. C.

The Flower memorial library at Wattertown, N. Y., was dedicated November 9. It is a gift from the daughter of the late Gov. Flower. The library is built of white marble and cost \$250,000.

The new \$50,000 library building, a gift from Mr Carnegie to Bayonne, N. J., was opened to the service of the public October 31 with appropriate ceremonies.

Daniel W. Fiske, at one time librarian of Cornell university, and who died abroad in September, bequeathed \$500,000 to Cornell for the establishment and maintenance of various departments of the library.

The handsome library building and club house combined, presented to Duquesne by Andrew Carnegie, was dedicated November 12 by an all-day celebration participated in by 20,000 people. Charles M. Schwab made the presentation speech for Mr Carnegie. The town is populated by the operatives of the steel works.

The new library building at Utica, N. Y., is fully described in the *Utica Daily press* of November 1. The building is furnished by the city and the site was a gift from T. R. and F. T. Proctor. The building is ample to administer a library of 100,000v., and is built largely from the plans suggested by the librarian, Miss Underhill.

A course of popular lectures was started in the Public library of Binghamton, N. Y., November 10. The first lecture was by W. E. Donaldson, U. S. weather observer, who by aid of descriptive charts talked most entertainingly on the climate of Binghamton. The lecture was free from technical terms, easy of comprehension, and was greatly enjoyed by all who heard it.

The Public library of Newark, N. J., has started a system of traveling libraries through a number of department stores in that city. The plan has met with hearty approval as it is almost impossible for the employees to find time to go to the library. The public schools of the city are visiting the library in sections to study the arrangement of the books and the use of the catalog.

An exhibition of books and manuscripts treating of the beginning and development of Columbia university,

numbering about 200 in all, was held in the Low memorial library at Columbia in November. One of the most interesting documents in the collection was an original proof of the constitution of the United States, with autograph amendments by William Samuel Johnson, third president of King's college, that were afterward incorporated into the constitution of 1787. Dr Johnson was chairman of a committee of five appointed to read proofs of the constitution and make suitable corrections.

Another document was the statement of the earnings of a lottery held in 1748, six years before the opening of the college, to raise money for its founding. This lottery netted £3400.

The collection contained the first register of students of the college, and also that containing the names of men who entered after the reopening of the college following the revolutionary war.

The first signature in this register of 1785 is that of De Witt Clinton, afterward governor of New York.

Central

Henry C. Remann has been elected librarian of the Lincoln library, Springfield, Ill.

The Public library at Toledo will put in a rental collection of fiction and of current magazines.

The new public library building at Chariton, Ia., was dedicated October 28, with appropriate ceremonies.

The Public library of Marion, Ind., has been presented with a set of museum cabinets by K. K. Kawakami, a Japanese official at the World's Fair at St Louis.

Jacob Piatt Dunn has been re-elected president of the Library commission of Indiana. Mr Dunn has been identified with the library interests of that state for 20 years.

Norwood, Ohio, a suburb of Cincinnati, has received an offer of \$20,000 for a library building from Andrew Carnegie. It will be equipped and maintained as a branch of the Cincinnati public library.

Syrena McKee, who has been librarian at Leavenworth, Kan., for eight years past, has been appointed to a library position under the U. S. government in the Philippine islands. She sails for Manila in January.

The eighth in the series of bulletins issued by the John Crerar library of Chicago has been printed. This consists of a list of the cyclopedias and dictionaries in the library with a supplement list of directories. The list includes 1610 titles.

Ohio Wesleyan university at Delaware, Ohio, has just been the recipient of the library of economics formerly owned by Charles Spahr, the American editor who was drowned in the English channel last summer. The lot contains 200v., many of which are rare and highly valued. The books were sent as a memorial from Mrs Spahr.

The annual report of the Peru (Ind.) public library shows a circulation of 22823v. with 4685 books on the shelves. A small package of 12v. is delivered every two weeks to the jail and to the fire department. A large circulation is carried on with the people in the surrounding country, who pay \$1 a year for the privileges of the library.

A souvenir postal card exhibit held at the Public library of East Liverpool, Ohio, aroused much interest and was well attended. The cards were from all parts of the world and were pasted on the glass partition between the reading-room and the lobby. The stamps furnished quite an item of interest also. Much of the collection was a loan from friends.

A flower show was held last month in the public library at Lansing, Mich., with 150 entries. The flowers, mostly asters, were raised by the school children from seed distributed by the library. A prize of a book on gardening was awarded for the finest bouquet. The flowers exhibited were donated to the library and sold. The proceeds are to be used for buying pictures for the children's room in the library.

On November 4 the pupils and teachers of the sixth grades of the public schools in Jacksonville, Ill., were invited to the children's room at the library for an afternoon with noted authors and celebrated people. A representative collection of 40 pictures of well-known writers was placed on a screen and around the room, and underneath each was a verse or reference to the catalog or shelf, or to some work of the author to serve as a clue to the picture. It proved not only a very enjoyable game for the children, but also helped them in learning how to consult books for references. Quite a number guessed all the pictures.

This year the story hour is in charge of Miss Holderman and Marie Chambers.

South

The Lawson-McGhee library of Knoxville, Tenn., was burned in a large fire which visited that city November 14. About 15,000v. were totally destroyed.

The Howard memorial library of New Orleans received a gold medal from the jury on historical displays, at the World's Fair at St Louis, and a silver medal on the same collection viewed as liberal arts.

Mrs Annie T. Howard Parrott, who founded and endowed the Howard memorial library of New Orleans, died in London October 21. The New Orleans papers pay a large tribute of praise to her many fine qualities.

The Rosenberg library at Galveston, Texas, which was opened last summer, is growing in favor and influence. The organization under direction of F. C. Patten is running smoothly with five assistants. The library is a gift to the city, and the cost of lot, building, and equipment, including a library of about 20,000v., was about \$200,000, leaving for a permanent endowment about \$400,000.

The library is centrally located at the edge of business and residence districts on a lot 215 by 120 feet. The building is 134 by 87 feet, two high stories and basement. The architecture is excellent—simple, dignified, and beautiful.

A branch for negroes may be estab-

lished by directors of Rosenberg library. If established, an addition to negro high school building, half a mile distant from main building, is likely to be erected for the branch.

Pacific coast

Mrs Alice G. Whitbeck, N. Y. '03, assistant cataloger of Mechanics' institute library, San Francisco, has been appointed children's librarian in the new Carnegie library of Berkeley, Cal.

A \$50,000 branch library building was dedicated and presented to the city of San Francisco October 27. It is the gift of A. B. McCreary, a pioneer of '49, and will be called the McCreary branch.

Foreign

A catalog of the books in the juvenile section of the Central library in Newcastle-upon-Tyne, England, has been issued in a pocket-size edition.

The city of Berlin has recently and for the first time appointed two women as library assistants in two of its People's libraries. One of them has studied English library methods and has completed a course in library training under one of the professors in the university library.

The Public library of Melbourne shows in the annual report of E. LaT. Armstrong, chief librarian, a circulation of 178,775v. for 1903. No works of fiction issued within two years are added to the library. The number of borrowers is 8443. Only 14 books were unaccounted for in the yearly stocktaking. The traveling libraries by which books are lent to Mechanics' institutes and free libraries circulated 6507v. The library is sadly in need of enlarged and more convenient quarters.

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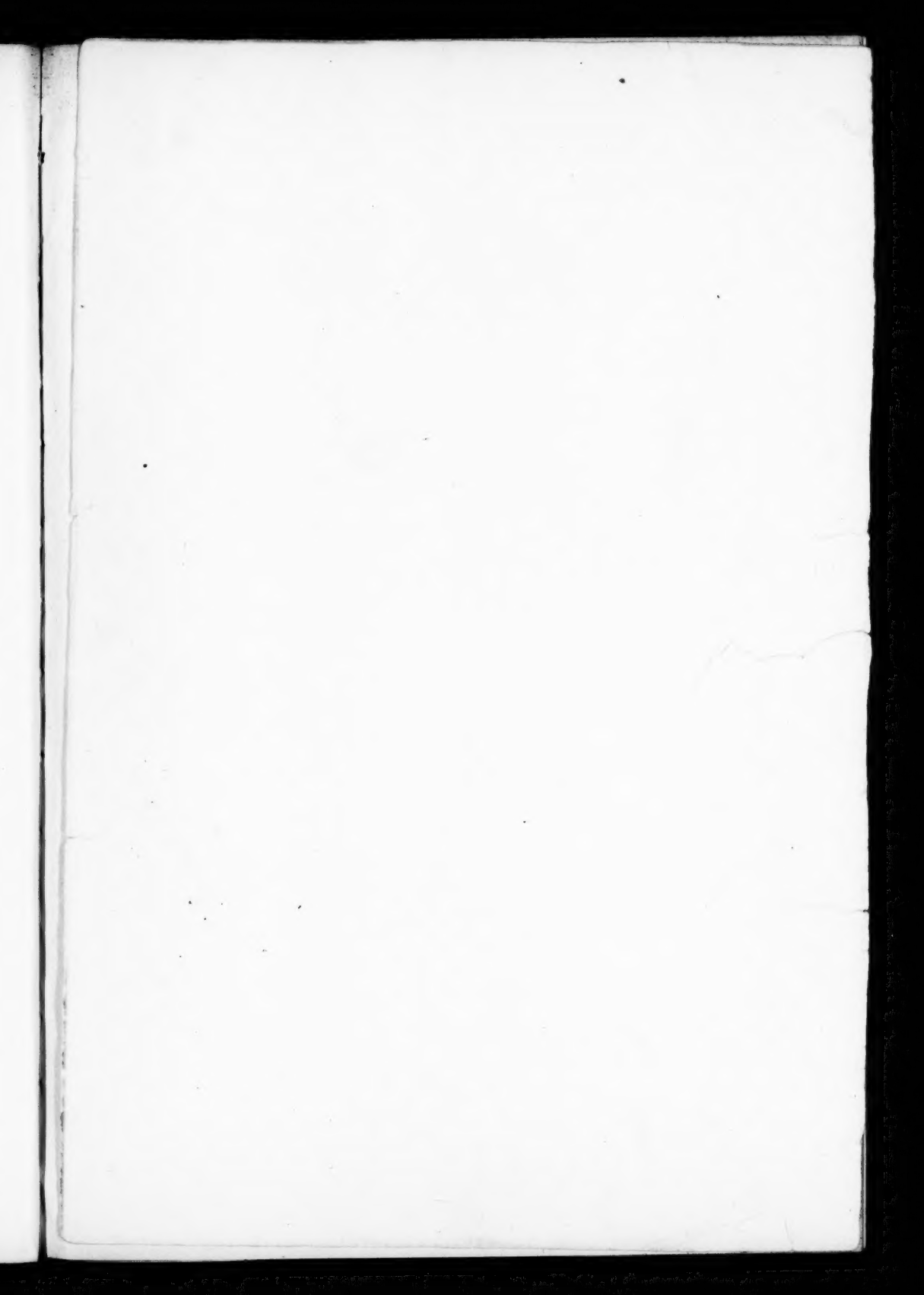
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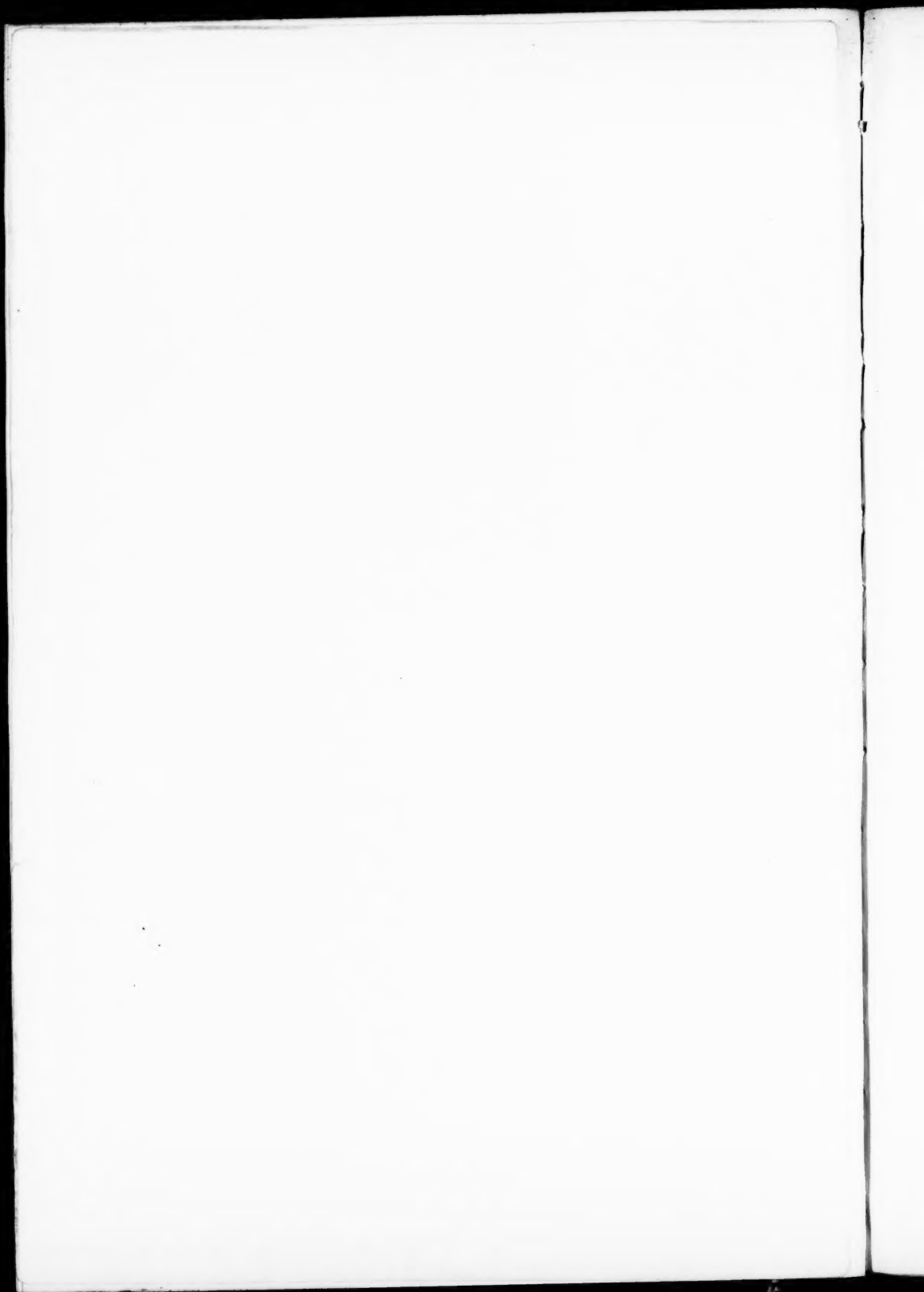
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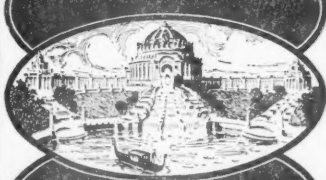
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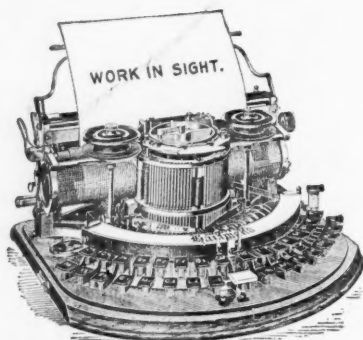
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